THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

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Josh Inglis' 120* helps Australia beat England

Josh Inglis, right, celebrates with teammate Glenn Maxwell after hitting the winning runs during a key ICC Champions Trophy match between Australia and England, in Lahore on Saturday.
England rode on Ben Duckett's terrific 165, but a middle-order attack from Australia helped seal a record chase | AFP | P13

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TAGIC/MagAD/HI/Feb 25/24 Ver 1/All 0380

PUBLIC NOTICE

CANCELLATION OF GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is to inform the general public that my client, **Sri. B. A. PRAKASH,** aged about 59 years, S/o. Late H. V. Ashwathanarayana Sastry, resident of 6031 Tanana Dr. Carmel, IN 46033, presently camping at No. A2-0402, L & T South City, MICO Arakere Layout, Bangalore- 560076, had executed a General Power of Attorney (GPA) in favour of **Sri. B. A. MADAN KUMAR,** S/o. Late H. V. Ashwathanarayana Sastry, residing at Flat No. 1143, Prestige Park Square, Basavanapura, Bannerghatta Main Road, Near NICE Road Junction, Bangalore-560083, on 04-03-2024, registered as Document No.SHR-4-00812-2023-24, of Book-IV, dated 04-03-2024, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shanthi Nagar, Bangalore, in respect of the property mentioned in the schedule hereunder.

My client, Sri. B. A. PRAKASH, hereby declare that the said General Power of Attorney dated 04-03-2024 stands cancelled and revoked by him with immediate effect from 21-02-2025, through a REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY, registered as Document No.RRN-4-00637-202425, of Book-IV, dated 21-02-2025, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar (Rajarajeshwari Nagar), Bangalore.

My client, Sri. B. A. PRAKASH, hereby declare that the aforementioned attorney holder, Sri. B. A. MADAN KUMAR, S/o. Late H.V. Ashwathanarayana Sastry, no longer has any authority to act on his behalf or represent him in any matter whatsoever.

Hence, the general public and all concerned parties are hereby advised not to entertain any dealings, transactions, or documents executed by the said attorney holder, Sri. B. A. MADAN KUMAR, S/o. Late H. V. Ashwathanarayana Sastry, on behalf of my said client, as the same shall be considered null and void.

Any person dealing with the said attorney holder, Sri. B. A. MADAN KUMAR, S/o. Late H. V. Ashwathanarayana Sastry, after this notice shall do so at their own risk and my said client shall not be held responsible for any consequences arising therefrom.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF vacant, immovable, residential property bearing Site No.62, New E-PID No.1371581140, in Bangalore City Municipal Corporation Employees House Building Co-operative Society Layout, formed at Raghuvanahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 40.0 Feet and North to South: 60.0 Feet, in all measuring 2400 Square Feet, presently comes under the limits and administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Ward No.198, Hemmigepura, BCMC Layout, Raghuvanahalli, Bangalore, and bounded on: East by West by North by South by : Site No. 61; Site No.63; Road; Private Property.

Sd/- **NAGARAJA KUMBLE,** M.A. LL.B., ADVOCATE
No.55, 4th Main, BEML 3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098.
Phone: 9242417700 Date: 22-02-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that one Prathap Reddy K has filed OS No.4152/2019 before the City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru (CCH42) against my client, Sri C.M. Shivadevappa seeking bare injunction and had also filed I.A.No.1 seeking temporary injunction against my client. My client has filed Counter Claim in the same suit and has also filed I.A. Nos.2 to 4 seeking injunction against the said Prathap Reddy K. The Hon'ble Court was pleased to dismiss I.A.No.1 filed by Prathap Reddy K and granted Injunction in favour of my client by restraining K Prathap Reddy from a) alienating or creating any third party interest over the suit schedule property b) interfering with peaceful possession and enjoyment of the suit schedule property c) restraining from putting up construction over the suit schedule property, by allowing the I.A.Nos.2, 3 and 4 respectively, by its Common Order dated 21/01/2025.

My client came to know that the said Prathap Reddy K is trying to alienate the schedule property in favour of third parties and is also trying to obtain loan on the schedule propertyfrom financial institutions/money lenders.

Hence, the general public is hereby cautioned not to transact with said Prathap Reddy K in respect of the suit schedule property. In spite of this notice, if anybody transact with Prathap Reddy K, the same would amount to contempt of court and they will not get any right, title or interest over the schedule property and the same is not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site. No.399, now situated at 4th Main, 11th Cross, Nrupatunga Nagar, J.P.Nagar 8th Phase, Bangalore-560 078, Old Khatha No.1522/122, New Khatha No. 3955/1522/399 out of converted Sy.No.122, vide order No.B DIS.ALN.SR(S) 418/88-89 dated 17-12-1992, from the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore district, situated at Kothanuru Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk within the limits of BBMP Bengaluru, measuring East to West 73.5ft and North to South 50ft totally measuring 3675 sq.ft together with 2 square shed and 1 toilet with water and electricity connection constructed thereon for residential purpose and bounded on :

East by : Private Property
West by : Property No.398
North by : Road
South by : Private Property

M/s. R. RAMESH & ASSOCIATES
Advocates & Solicitors,
No.39/1, ASVNV Centenary Bhavan, Office Premises No.23, 2nd Floor, K.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 009.
Mob: 98453 96843, 080-4096 1041.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are investigating the title of Santhosh Tazhathu son of Late Dr. Mathew residing at Villa No.9, Chaithanya Rakuen, Swami Vivekananda Road, Near Hope Farm Junction, Whitefield, Bangalore – 560066("Owner") to land in Survey No. 18/1A1 measuring 1 acre 13 guntas, having PID No. 2109/18/1A1, situated at Doddakannahalli Village, VarthurHobli, Bangalore South Talukmorefully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property" and Inspira Infinity LLP, a limited liability partnership, with its registered office at # 35, Ground Floor, Kasturba Cross Road, Off Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560011("Developer") has development rights in relation to the Schedule Property and is developing a project known as "Inspira Infinity" ("Project").

Any person or entities having any right, title, claim or interest of any kind whatsoever including mortgage/ charge/ claim/ encumbrance/ demand over the Schedule Property and/or the Project whether by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, encumbrance, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, bequest, easement, trust, covenant, possession, maintenance, FSI consumption, development rights, or otherwise of any nature whatsoever in the Schedule Property and/or the Project must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within ten (10) days of this publication. In case no such notice is received by us within ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the Owner and the rights of the Developer with respect to the Schedule Property and/or the Project is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and/or the Project or any part thereof. Claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the converted land bearing Survey No. 18/1A1 (Old No. 18/1C1A), measuring 1 Acre 13 guntas, situated at Doddakannahalli Village, VarthurHobli, Bangalore South Taluk along with the development thereon known as "Inspira Infinity" and bounded on the:

East by	RailwayRoad
West by	Gunjuru and/or Mulluru Road
North by	Survey No. 18/1A2
South by	Survey No. 18/1B

Malini Raju
Vidhyadhare. S
AZB & Partners, Level 5, 37 Cunningham, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru -560 052.
Place: Bangalore
Date : 23.02.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that **Smt. Kavitha Senthilkumar,** residing at site no.326, 6th Main Vinayaka Layout, Police Camp Road, Near Silver County Apartment, Kudlu, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 068 is the owner of the Schedule Property described infra.

It is noticed that the original absolute sale deed dated 06.04.2005 (doc.no.436/2005-06) pertaining to the Schedule Property is lost / misplaced. In this connection, an E-Complaint has been lodged on 22.02.2025 at Bangalore City Police Station, Bangalore, bearing Serial No.1490820.

The finder of the said document is requested to surrender the original sale deed to the undersigned **within 15 days** from this day, failing which, it shall be deemed that the sale deed is irretrievably lost and certified copy of the same shall be obtained from the office of Sub-registrar of Assurances in lieu of lost original for the purpose of records.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing katha no.265, Assessment Register no.209/1, site no.91, measuring 30'X40' East to West : 40 (Forty Feet), North to South : 30' (Thirty feet) Total 1200 Square feet situated Kudlu, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded as follows: On the **East by:** Road, **West by** : Site No.118, **North by:** Site No.92, **South by:** Site No.90.

R. RAJALAKSHMI, Advocate
No.520, III Floor, Prabhat Complex, K.G Road, Bangalore-560 009.
Ph - 41247862 & 41224958
Date : 22.02.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby notifying general public and financial institutions that my clients **1. Sri. SUNIL MALIK,** and **2. Smt. ALPANA MALIK,** has negotiated to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. K. PARAMESHWARA, Sri. K. KUMARESH, Sri. K. JAGADESH,** Children of Late. T. N. Krishnan @ Krishnappa, Residing at No.8, O.T.C. Road, Next to Sharada Theater, Bangalore - 560002. Their family members, financial institutions and the general public are hereby notified that if anybody has any objections, claims, charges, lien etc., if any in respect of the schedule property may lodge their objections with documentary proof relied upon with the undersigned within SEVEN (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, my client proceeds to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF Property Bearing **No.3/1, (Old No.11, than No.13) having BBMP PID No.47-132-3/1,** Situated at Dasopanth Lane, Sunkalpet, Bengaluru, presently coming under the Limits of BBMP Ward No.47, Dharmarayaswamy Temple, Bangalore, **measuring East to West : 17 feet and North to South : 37 feet, in all 629 sq feet** along with Building having 600 sq feet Built Up Area in Ground Floor, 600 sq feet Built Up Area in First Floor, 600 sq feet Built Up Area in Second Floor, 600 sq feet Built Up Area in Third Floor and 600 sq feet Built Up Area in Fourth Floor and 200 sq feet Built up area in Fifth Floor having total Built Up Area of 3200 sq feet, having RCC Roofing, Vitrified Tiles Flooring, Doors and Windows made of Jungle Wood and Steel with all civic amenities and the same is bounded on as under :

East by : 3 feet Passage; West by : Private Property; North by : Dasopanth Lane; South by : Property belonging to Sri. T.N. Gangadharan,

***VENU GOPAL. L,* Advocate,**
No.8, 13th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru - 560 002.
Bengaluru Dated: 22.02.2025

IN THE COURT OF THE XIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-18)

P & SC No. 30/2025

Petitioners : 1. Mamatha Srinivasan, W/o Late Sri B.N. Srinivasan, aged about 56 years.
2. B.S. Kalyan Venkatesh, S/o Late Sri. B.N. Srinivasan, aged about 24 years.
Both the Petitioners 1 and 2 are Resident of No.24, 4th Cross, Vinayakanagar, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore- 560050.

Vs

Respondents : Nil

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS the above named petitioners have made a petition to the Hon'ble XIX Additional City Civil and Session Judge (CCH-18), Bangalore, under section 372 of the Indian Succession Act. 1952, praying for issuance of a Succession Certificate in favour of the second Petitioner in respect of the Schedule property as below, so left by late Sri. B.N. Srinivasan who is the husband of Petitioner No. 1 and father of the Petitioner No. 2, who had expired on 26.10.2021.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear in this court in person (or) by pleader duly instructed **on 1st day of April, 2025 at 11.00 clock** in forenoon to show cause against the petition, failing wherein the matter will be heard and determined.

SCHEDULE

Shares owned by Sri. B.N. Srinivasan

Name of the Company	: State Bank of India
Certificate No. & Folio Number	: 000194264 : 02440823
Distinctive No	: 7444334931 -7444335430
No. of Shares	: 500
Share Value Rs.743.25	: 500 x 743.25 Total 3,71,625/-

Given under my hand and the seal of Court, this 20th day of February 2025.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Petitioners:
A. RAMESH, Advocate
No.714, 7th B Cross Floor, Shastrinagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560028.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.

Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526 PA : 8147796539. e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website :https://bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in principal: bmcrcballari@gmail.com

No: BMCRC/SUP/TEND/ORTHO/13/2024-25/291
DATE: 20.02.2025

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Medical Equipment and Instruments to Orthopedics Department, TCC, BMCRC, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit the proposal in prescribed format in above said e-portal on or before **07.03.2025** up to **5.00** PM. The total approximate cost of tender is **110.76 Lakhs.** Further details may be obtained in the above said website and **https://bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/962/KSMCA/2024-25

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD

2nd Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. - PR 18/2025

With reference to Tender Notice No.- PR 18/2025 issued in various newspapers on 21st January, 2025 for **"Setup and Operate Online Examination Centre on Revenue Sharing Model at Block C, Bapu Pariksha Parisar, Kumhrar, Patna**. Changes have been made in **Tender Schedule**, the last date of submission of bid is **01.03.2025 till 14:00 Hrs**. The Technical Bid opening time will be **03.03.2025, 14:00 Hrs.**

All other terms & conditions remain same. Kindly refer e-procurement website **https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in** for further information.

Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **SRI.DINESH KUMAR GULLECHA** S/o late Puhkraj, residing at: No.6, 3rd Floor, Karnic Road, Above Exide Battery Show Room, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560004.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.195 (PID No.46-3-195) and No.195/1 (PID No.46-3-195/1), measuring East to West 30ft and North to South 65ft, together with a building thereon, situated at Albert Victor Road, Chamarajpete, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Property of Ramanna
West by : Property of Kalyanibayamma
North by : Property of Mayanna
South by : Albert Victor Road.

Sd/- S.F. GOUTAM CHAND, Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are investigating the title of Inspira Ecostuck, a partnership firm with S. Akarsh alias Akarsh Reddy son of H. R. S. Reddy, Prabhu UR son of Mr. Rangaswamy and Aravinda MS son of M. V. Srinivas being the partners and having its office at No. 41, Kasturba Cross Road, Off Lavelle Road, Bangalore- 560 001 (**"Owner"**), with respect to converted land in Sy. No. 485/1 measuring 2 Acres 11 Guntas and land in Sy. No. 485/2 measuring 2 Acres 16 Guntas, both situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District which are morefully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property".**

Any person or entities having any right, title, claim or interest of any kind whatsoever including mortgage/ charge/ claim/ encumbrance/ demand over the Schedule Property whether by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, encumbrance, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, bequest, easement, trust, covenant, possession, maintenance, FSI consumption, development rights, or otherwise of any nature whatsoever in the Schedule Property must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within ten (**10**) days of this publication. In case no such notice is received by us within ten (**10**) days from the date of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the Owner with respect to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within ten (**10**) days from the date of publication of this notice, shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE converted land bearing Sy. No. 485/1 measuring 2 Acres 11 Guntas, converted for non-agricultural residential use situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on the:

East by	Land bearing Sy.No.485/2
West by	Land bearing Sy.No.486
North by	Private Property
South by	Land bearing Sy.No.483

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE converted land bearing Sy. No.485/2 measuring 2 Acres 16 Guntas, converted for non-agricultural residential use, situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on the:

East by	Land bearing Sy.No.484
West by	Land bearing Sy.No.485/1
North by	Private Property
South by	Land bearing Sy.No.483

Malini Raju
Vidhyadhare. S
AZB & Partners, Level 5, 37 Cunningham, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru -560 052.
Place: Bangalore
Date : 23.02.2025

Can Fin Homes Ltd

Sri.Annapoorneshwari Complex, Above Canara Bank,B.G.S. Road, Bangalore – 562109, Ph: 080-2728250
Mob: 7625079189
e-mail Id: bidadi@canfinhomes.com
CIN No. L85110KA1987PLC008699

Bidadi Branch

APPENDIX- IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Bidadi Branch, will be sold by holding e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **29.03.2025** for recovery of **Rs. 13,20,886/-** (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Six Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from **Mr.Muniraju M** S/o Late Muniswamappa and **Mrs.Mangalagowramma** W/o Muniraju M (Borrowers),**Mr.Ashok S Hubballi** S/o Mr.Shantappa Hubbali and **Mr.Someshwara Raju G** S/o Mr.Govindaraju **(Guarantor)** as on 22.02.2025 together with further interest and other charges thereon.

The reserve price will be **Rs. 31,50,000/-** (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.3,15,000/-** (Rupees Three Lakh Fifteen Thousand Only)

Description of the Immovable Property

All that piece and parcel of residential Property Bearing Old Katha No.50,Changed Katha No.74,Old House List No.88,Changed No.122,New Municipal No.122,Western Portion of PID No.39-286-122,Situated at Pantharapalya Village,5th Cross,Kengeri Hobli,Bangalore South Taluk,Now in ward No.131 (Old Ward No.39)Chandra Layout Zone,Bangalore Mahanagara Palike,Bangalore,Karnataka, measuring East to West 26 Feet and North to South 15 Feet, Total measuring 390 Sq Ft.and bounded on East by : Property of M.Munikaragappa in the same number in A shedule, West by : Galli, North by : Passage Measuring 1 1/2 feet left by the applicant,his brother and his sister in law and property of Karagappa, South by : Property of Karagappa.

Encumbrance: NIL

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx). Link for participating in e-auction : www.bankeauctionwizard.com

Date: 22.02.2025
Place : Bidadi

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, HOLENARASIPURA

Phone Number: 08175-273229
Email:itstaff_ulb_holenarsipur@yahoo.co.in
Website: www.holenarasipurtown.gov.in

No:TMC:HNP/ENG/SFC2019-20/2024-25 Date: 21.02.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATON : (Through KPPP Portal)

The Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Holenarasipura, Hassan District, Hassan invites tenders for below mentioned works. The Registered and interested contractors are here by requested to participate by quotating their rates in the KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ on or before the dates mentioned below. The details are as below: SFC Special Grant 2019-20 Sl no.Name of work: 1)Construction of Roads, drains and other development works in ward no 1 to 13, 16 & 19 of Holenarasipura TMC limits. Indent No: DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT35755 Estimate cost (In lakh) 500.00 EMD Amount (In lakh)6.36 2)Construction of Roads, drains and other development works in ward no 14,15&23 of Holenarasipura TMC limits. Indent No:DMA/2024-25/ RD/WORK_INDENT35756 Estimate cost (In lakh)500.00 EMD Amount (In lakh)6.36 1.Pre bid meeting date: 03.03.2025 timings 11.30 2.Last date for submitting tender: 10.03.2025 upto 17.00 hrs 3.Date of Opening of Technical bid: 12.03.2025 at 11.00 AM 4.Date of Opening of Finanacial bid: 14.03.2024 at 11.00 AM

Sd/-President, TMC, Holenarasipura **Sd/- Chief Officer TMC, Holenarasipura**

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/986/ಶಿಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम — A Government of India Undertaking

UNION BANK OF INDIA

(A Government of India Undertaking)

SALE NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLES

E-Auction Sale Notice for 30 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/chargedto the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Union Bank of India, Ulsoor Road Branch, No.21, Ulsoor Road, Opp: Telephone Exchange, Bengaluru-560042

1) Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: (1) Mr. C S Devaraj S/O Mr. C R Sathya Devan, **2.Mrs. Biji Devraj** S/O Mr. C S Devaraj, **Both are residing at:** BT 26 Ittina Neela Apartments, Near Gold Cons Club, Andapura, Electronics City Bangalore-560100.

Amount due: Rs.11,71,321.46 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Seventy One Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty One and Forty Six Paise Only) plus future interest other charges.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: Schedule-A: All the piece and parcel of properties bearing (1) Sy No 5/3 measuring 2 acres 27 Guntas of land (2) Sy no 46 measuring 2 acres of land (3) sy no 47, Measuring 2 acres of Land and 4(4) Sy no 48 measuring 2 acres of land totally 8 acres 27 Guntas of Land Excluding Kharab, Situated at Andhapura Village, Attible hobli, Anakal Taluk, Bangalore District Converted for Non agricultural Residential Purpose through the Conversion order bearing no BDS/ALN/SR9A) 66/2001-2002 dtd 26.02.2003 and bonded on: East by: Property bearing nos 46 & 5/4, West By: Property bearing SY nos 49 & 5/1, North By: Property bearing Sy nos 52,5/4 & 5/5, South By: Property bearing Sy no 45.

Schedule B: (property Subject to Ittina Neela Apartments): All that Residential Apartment Bearing No BT-26 in Third Floor in Block 'B' of 'ITTINA NEELA' built in schedule property and measuring 1000 sq feet super Built area together with proportionate share in common area ,passage, lobbies, Staircase and other areas together with 300 sq feet undivided share ,right, title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in Schedule A property and a covered Car parking in the basement . East by: Site no 67A, West by: Site No 69 A, North by: Site No 76A, South by : Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.25,96,750/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Seven Fifty only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.02,59,675/-
(Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Five Only)

2) Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: 1.Mr C A Satish (Applicant), 2.Mrs Renuka (Co-applicant) W/o C A Satish, both are residing at: No 9,Near Maruthi Ceramics, Viswaneedu Post,Magadi Main Road, Bangalore-560091.

Amount due: Rs.33,54,954.88 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Four and Eighty Eight Paise only) plus future interest other charges.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: EMD of all that piece and parcel of the residential land & Building Property bearing no 28, Assessment No 69, Khata No 175 situated at Andrahalli Village,Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk measuring East to West 40 feet and North to south 30 feet measuring Total 1200 sq feet with house thereon and bounded by East by: property No 17, West by: Road, North by: Property No 21, South by : property No 19.

Reserve Price : Rs.59,60,880/-(Rupees Fifty Nine Lakh Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.05,96,88/-(Rupees Five Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Eighty Eight only)

3) Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: 1. Mrs Shanta Bai W/o Late Rathnakar, **2. Mr Roshan R** S/o Late Rathnakar, **Both are residing at:** Shiva Nilaya, Near Anjanadri Complex, No 5/1, 2Nd Cross, M M Road, Byataranapura, Bangalore-560026.

Amount due: Rs.33,16,472.96 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Two and Ninety Six Paise only) plus future interest other charges.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property Land & Building being front portion of property bearing No 5, Shiva Nilaya, Municipal No 5/1, PID no 41-47-5/1 ,measuring East to West 28 ft and North to South 28 ft, ,totally measuring 784 sq ft situated at 2nd cross, Byataranapura, Mysore Road, Bengaluru- 560026 owned by Shanta Bai and bounded by: East by : Passage of 12 ft width * 28ft length, West by : Property belonging to Chikkathimmaiah, North by : Portions of the rest of said property retained by vendors, South by : Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.80,87,750/-(Rupees Eighty Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.08,08,775/-(Rupees Eight Lakh Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Five Only)

For auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, Ulsoor Road Branch, Contact No. 8944931170

Union Bank of India, C T Street Branch, Malkala Market,1st Floor, chowdeshwari Temple street, Avenue Road Cross,Bangalore -560002

4) Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: 1.M/s Chordia Multitrade Pvt Ltd, 125,4th Main, 4th Main,4th Block, Thyagarajanagar Bangalore-560028, **Co- Obligant/Mortgagor: A. Mr. Keerthi Jain, B. Mrs.Savita Jain, C. Ms. Neelam Jain, D. M/s.Vijayaraj(HUF) All are residing at:** 44/2,1st Floor, Dwarka Apartments, Basavangudi, Bangalore, karnataka-560004. **E. Mr. Ajay Saini** S/o Mr. Shamsher Singh, Butani(28), Jind Haryana-126112.

Amount due: Rs.62,74,230.27 (Rupees Sixty Two Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty and Twenty Seven Paise only) as on **20.02.2025** together with further interest and charges expenses thereon.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: Schedule 'A' Property: All the piece & parcel of the property new Sy.No.223 (old Sy.No.173) measuring 2 acres converted vide official Memorandum bearing no. ALN(A)(A) SR/107/2010-11 dated 17.03.2010 situated at indlabele Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and Bounded as follows: East by: Sarjapur Main Road, West by: Sy. No. 173, North by: Sy. No. 180 & 181, South by : Sai Layout.

Schedule 'B' Property : 507 Sq. Ft of undivided share of right, title and interest and ownership in schedule A property.

Schedule 'C' Property: All the piece & parcel of three-bedroom residential apartment bearing A-112 of A Block now bearing Bidaraguppe Gramapanchayath E-katha Bearing No.150200100200320708, flat No.248/A-112 on the first floor of the building known as "SIGMA SERENITY" constructed in the Schedule A property, having a super built up area of 1375 Sqft. (Which is inclusive of floors, ceiling and walls between the apartment and portion of share in common areas and a share in the club house area) together with one covered car parking space in basement and bounded on : East by: Flat No. A 110, West by: Flat No. A 114, North by: Open Space, South by : Flat No. A-111.

Reserve Price : Rs.38,64,000/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Sixty four Thousand only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.03,86,400/- (Rupees Three Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred only)

For auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, C T Street Branch, Contact No. 9443552158.

Union Bank of India, Haines Road Branch, No.1, Elegant Dizer, Pulikeshi Nagar, Coles Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005

5) Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: 1. Mr. Ilyaz Ahmad S/o Farooq Ahmad, **2. Mrs. Hajira N, Both are residing at:** No.52, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Manganampalya Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068, **Also at** : Flat No. 103, 1st Floor, Unik Paradise, 2nd Block, Shampura, Bangalore-560045.

Amount due: Rs.50,92,560 (Rupees Fifty Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty only) as on **21.02.2025** together with further interest and charges expenses thereon.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All that piece and parcel of immovable property land and building property bearing Unik Paradise Apartment Flat No.103, First Floor, Property New BBMP No.8, PID No-95-349-8, Site No.43 & 43A, Katha No.1378 & 1379, Krishnappa Layout, Shampura New Extension 2nd Block, Shampura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru 560045 owned by Mr. Iliyaz Ahamad and bounded by : East by : 4th Cross Road, West by : Property Nos. 40 & 41, North by : Property No.44, South by : Property No.42.

Reserve Price : Rs.45,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.04,50,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Thousand only)

For auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, Haines Road Branch, Contact No. 9542222724.

Date and time of E-Auction: 27.03.2025 between 12 PM to 5 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD : EMD shall be deposited and Linked/Map the EMD amount with the Property ID before End Time of Auction, E-auction website: https://baanknet.com

For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://baanknet.com and https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in**
The online E-auction will be held through website: **https://baanknet.com**

Date: 21.02.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra

Zonal Office, Bengaluru
No. 465/A, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Opp: NMKRV College for Women, Jayanagar Bengaluru - 560011, **Telephone:** 080-29509922
E-mail : legal_ban@mahabank.co.in
Head Office: Lokmangal, 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties (Appendix IV-A)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s & Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **11.03.2025**, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower/s & Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under –

Sl. No.	Name and address of Borrowers & Guarantors	Outstanding dues as on 19.02.2025	Short description of immovable property / Possession Type / Encumbrances known to the bank	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit
1.	**Kormangala Branch (M-9836538068) Borrower: Mr. Eruvaka Vishal Guarantor/s: Miss Eruvaka Sucharitha** Both resided at 101, Aries Apartment, 27th Main Road, Sector-2, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560102	**Rs.1,20,58,198.00 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand One Hundred Ninety Eight Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 20.02.2025 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	Residential Vacant Plot situated at Northern Portion of New Site No. 01, bearing Khata no. 391/41, New Site No. 1, Property No. 150200101800400079 in Sy No. 547/3, situated at Surya Nagar II Phase, KHB, Marasur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560099, admeasuring total area 4010.75 sq. ft. (East to West-131.50 feet. & North to South 30.50 feet.) and the property is butted and bounded as under-On or towards East : By Remaining portion of the Erstwhile Sy. No. 547/3; On or towards West : By 60 feet Road; On or towards North : By Northern Portion of new site no. 1 of Schedule A property & On or towards South : By Remaining Southern Portion of same site and site Nos 2 to 5. **Physical** **NIL**	**Rs. 99.20 Lakh** **10% of Reserve Price**
2.	**Branch: Chamrajpet (M-9688671010) Borrower/s: 1. Mrs. Rashmei Sharma 2. Mr. Aayoush Sharma** Both resided at No. A-502, Tower-2, Aspen-A Wing, Godrej Woodsman Estate, Near Columbia Asia Hospital, Hebbal Main Road, Bangalore-560 024 **Guarantor: Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma** No. A-502, Tower-2, Aspen-A Wing, Godrej Woodsman Estate, Near Columbia Asia Hospital, Hebbal Main Road, Bangalore-560 024	**Rs.58,24,136.00 (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakh Twenty Four Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 20.02.2025 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All that piece and parcel of 3BHK residential property (land & building) bearing Flat No.302 admeasuring area 1342 sq. ft. (super built-up) on 3rd Floor in the apartment named "Shri Sai Shanthi Nilaya" with undivided share of the land of 230 sq. ft. out of total area of the land 5600 sq. ft. of the land bearing No.21 & 22, Old Khatha No.582/01/21 & 22, New Khatha No.31/33/21 & 383/585/0/22 lying and situated at Ward No.8, near State Bank of India & Ring Road, Balaji Layout, Kodigehalli Main Road, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore-560 094 and the Flat is butted and bounded as under- On or towards North : By Flat No.301. On or towards South : By Private Property (Open to Sky). On or towards East : By Private Property (Open to Sky). On or towards West : By Flat No.304. **Symbolic** **NIL**	**Rs. 45.48 Lakh** **10% of Reserve Price**
3.	**Branch: Brigade Road (M-8903788479) Borrowers: Mr. Mohan Kumar P Guarantor: Mr. Puttanna M** Both resided at # 115B/1, Near Chowdeshwari Temple, Tilak Circle, Anekal, Bangalore-562 106	**Rs.17,18,637.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Seven Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 20.02.2025 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All that piece and parcel of Land & Building bearing Survey No.81/259, 81A259A, 82/259A, 83/260 & 83A/8260A admeasuring area 3540 sq. ft. consisting of 20 rooms on Ground & 1st Floor lying and situated at 2 Cross, Sipaygalli, Near Chowdeshwari Temple, Police Station, Tal-Anekal, Dist.-Bengaluru, Pin-562 106 and the property is butted and bounded as under- On or towards North : By Property belonging to same Khatha No.83/260 & 83A/260A. On or towards South : By Road. On or towards East : By Property belonging to Venkatachallaiah. On or towards West : By Property belonging to Ammayya and Lalasab. **Symbolic** **NIL**	**Rs. 153.00 Lakh** **10% of Reserve Price**

- **Date of E-Auction & Time: 11/03/2025 between 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm.**
- **Property Inspection Date & Time: 24/02/2025 to 07/03/2025 with prior appointment.**
- **Last Date & Time for submission of Bid/EMD : 11/03/2025 upto 1.00 pm.**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in website of Bank of Maharashtra i.e. "https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in/properties for sale" & "https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/x-login".

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower/s and guarantor/s above named are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 20.02.2025
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Bank of Maharashtra
Bangalore Zone

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

S. No.	Tender No. and Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	02241456B 19.03.2025	Switch Board Cabinet for HOG Non-AC LSLRD-COACH (W/O) DA Set	44 Set	11,70,720/-
2.	17251069 14.03.2025	Supply & Installation of One Rake Set of ACP Interior Panelling for Vande Bharat Trainset	2 Set	20,00,000/-
3.	02251041 19.03.2025	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) PI No. 33681879 PI No. 33689829	235 Set 28 Set	5,28,980/-
4.	05251075 24.03.2025	Body Side Sliding Door	134 Set	2,50,210/-
5.	05251076 20.03.2025	Final Roof Element	191 Nos.	1,94,250/-
6.	05251062 26.03.2025	Set of Console	650 Set	1,73,340/-
7.	05251083 20.03.2025	Set of Pillar Assembly (2 Types)	264 Set	3,51,160/-
8.	05251046 25.03.2025	Set of Carline Assly	78 Set	1,87,210/-
9.	04251010 18.03.2025	Pipe 42x2 in length of 6000 mm	20557 Mtr.	2,88,800/-
10.	02251002 18.02.2025	End Fittings (03 Types)	44300 Nos.	2,64,360/-

1. For details and making on-line bids, visit website **http://ireps.gov.in**. Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in**. Class III-b digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in**. **2.** Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and tenders will be opened at 14.30 hrs. Tender at Sl. No. 1 to 4 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and Sl. No. 5 to 10 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. **3.** For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.

Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them. **PCMM**

CORRIGENDUM

Tenderers may please note the following changes in 1. Tender No. 12241440 due on 20.02.2025 for procurement of INTER-COACH GANGWAY WITHOUT FLEXIBLE INTERIOR SYSTEM FURNISHING (INCLUDING VESTIBULE FOOT PLATE) FOR LHB COACHES, Due date to be read as 07.03.2025 instead of 20.02.2025. **2.** Tender No. 17231508, **(i)** Due date to be read as 07.03.2025 instead of 21.02.2025, **(ii)** Description is modified for all items, **(iii)** Eligibility Criteria is modified, **(iv)** Delivery Period is revised. **3.** Tender No. 17241586, **(i)** Due Date to be read as 04.03.2025 instead of 20.02.2025, **(ii)** Description is modified for all items. **All other terms & conditions will remain the same.** **PCMM**

R.O. No. 126-S/2024-25 **Dated 22.02.2025**

THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

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NEW CORONAVIRUS DETECTED THAT CAN INFECT HUMANS AS COVID-19

A new bat coronavirus has been found that carries the risk of animal-to-human transmission because it uses the same human receptor as Covid: Report

BATWOMAN SHI LEADS THIS ROUND OF STUDY

South China Morning Post reported that the new virus comes from merbecovirus subgenus, which is able to bind to the human angiotensin converting enzyme, which caused Covid-19 to infect cells. The study was led by 'batwoman' Shi Zhengli who is known for her work at the Wuhan institute, which has been at the centre of controversy about Covid origins

EXPERTS DIFFER ON NEW STRAIN'S EFFICIENCY

- Another study by University of Washington and Wuhan University claimed the new strain, HKU5, did not have efficient human binding
- Shi's team has a different take. It says HKU5-CoV-2 better adapted to human ACE2 compared to lineage 1 of the virus and may have a broader host range and higher potential for interspecies infection

HKU5

IS THE NAME OF NEW CORONAVIRUS FIRST IDENTIFIED IN HONG KONG

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Attack on bus conductor: 4 held, girl files POCSO plaint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

THE attack on a KSRTC bus conductor at Balekundri (KH) village in Belagavi taluk for not speaking Marathi with passengers has become a major issue with police filing a POCSO case against him on a complaint by a minor girl on Friday night and several Kannada organisations staging protests on Saturday.

Marihal police arrested four people, including a minor, in connection with the attack on the conductor. They were produced before a local court, which remanded three of them in judicial custody for 14 days. The three accused were sent to Hindalga jail on Saturday afternoon.

Activists of various Kannada organisations, including Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV), staged protests seeking action against those who had assaulted the conductor. Criticising the police for filing a "false" POCSO case against the conductor, they said it should be withdrawn immediately.

The KRV activists blocked the Bagalkot-Belagavi highway, disrupting traffic for almost one hour. They were taken into police custody and released later.

KRV leader Deepak Gudaganatti accused the police of acting under pressure. "No elected representative has spoken in favour of the conductor. If this continues, politicians ignoring Kannadigas will face consequences in the coming elections," he said.

Mahadevappa Hukkeri, the injured conductor, who is being treated in Belagavi Institute of Medical Science (BIMS) Hospital, said, "At least seven people assaulted me. They prevented me from getting off the bus. All are from Balekundri village. I have suffered internal injuries. I have been working on this route for 16 years, but never faced any problem."

Meanwhile, the minor girl, in her complaint with Marihal police, alleged that the conductor attempted to molest her on the bus. Mahadevappa, however, denied the allegation. P7

8 TRAPPED IN TUNNEL

- MINISTER KEEPS FINGERS CROSSED ON THEIR STATUS
- ROOF CAVED IN 14 KM WITHIN THE TUNNEL AT 8.30 AM

The mouth of the under-construction tunnel (R) of Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project where a section of roof collapsed; and a damaged section | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MANDA RAVINDER REDDY
@Hyderabad

EIGHT workers at the under-construction Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana were trapped after a portion of its roof collapsed about 14 km from Domalapenta in Nagarkurnool district, around 8.30 am on Saturday.

Telangana minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government had requested the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Army to help with the rescue operations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and assured full support. A 96-member NDRF team and personnel from the Army's Engineer Task Force (ETF) arrived in Domalapenta at night. But as of 9 pm, they had not reached the accident spot and the rescue works had not begun, government sources said.

When asked whether those trapped inside the tunnel were alive, the minister said: "So far there is no information about this. But we are going ahead with the hope that they are alive."

Around 8 am on Saturday, nearly 60 workers entered the tunnel being laid through the Nallamala forests from Domalapenta — near Srisailam backwaters — to the Nakkalagandi reservoir. They were carrying out construction activities around 14 km inside the tunnel when the roof collapsed due to a sudden influx of water, sources said.

Uttam said the workers had begun using the Tunnel Boring Machine around 8 am as part of their daily routine. "After some time, there was an influx of water due to a geological disturbance."

A project engineer, field engineer and four labourers from Jaiprakash Associates, and two operatives from Robbins India, which handle the tunnel boring machine operations, were trapped. They hail from Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Uttam said that there was no problem with ventilation inside the tunnel. He said the government had also spoken to experts who rescued workers trapped in a tunnel in Uttarakhand in 2023.

A team from Singareni Collieries too has been deployed for rescue operations. Singareni CMD N Balram said they have the necessary expertise to handle critical situations such as roof collapses.

Shaktikanta Das is PM's Principal Secretary-2

The appointment of the former RBI governor will be co-terminus with the prime minister's term or until further orders

CARRIER ISSUES APOLOGY

SHIVRAJ SLAMS AIR INDIA OVER BROKEN SEAT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

IT took a Union minister to expose the shoddy service provided to flyers by airlines. Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday lambasted Tata Group-owned Air India for allotting him a "broken and sunk" seat, prompting his civil aviation minister K Rammohan Naidu to instruct the airline to take "necessary action".

Separately, Air India apologised for the incident and ordered a probe while the DGCA sought a report from the airline.

Describing it as an "unethical" practice where the airline charges passengers full fare and then makes them occupy defective seats, Chouhan in a post on X said he was travelling from Bhopal to Delhi to inaugurate a farmers' fair in Pusa, attend the Natural Farming Mission meeting in Kurukshetra, and hold meetings with representatives of protesting farmers' organisation in Chandigarh.

He boarded the Delhi-bound Air India flight AI436 from Bhopal and was allotted seat 8C. "When I reached my seat, I found it was broken and sunk. Sitting was uncomfortable," he said on social media.

When he confronted the crew over the defective seat, he was told that the management had been apprised about the issue. "Isn't this unethical and a form of deception towards passengers? Willl Air India take steps to ensure no passenger faces such discomfort or will it continue to exploit passengers?" he asked.

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Rift between state govt & Raj Bhavan escalates as guv returns three bills

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

GOVERNOR Thaawarchand Gehlot has returned the Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University (Amendment) Bill, 2024, to the state government, suggesting that it should be withdrawn per se.

This alleged attempt to replace the governor as chancellor of the university has escalated the rift between the government and Raj Bhavan. The government wants the chief minister to be the chancellor of the university.

According to sources, the government is keen on bringing similar amendments to replace the governor as chancellor of all the state-run universities.

The government passed the Bill during the winter session in Belagavi in December 2024. "In the guise of bringing in changes, the attempt to take away powers, responsibilities and functions of the governor will lead to unnecessary conflict and friction. I advise the government to refrain from such ventures and take proactive and cordial steps to foster goodwill and gentlemanliness. Hope, the government will withdraw this Bill aimed to curtail the powers of the governor. There should not be any doubt regarding the fact that the RDPR Act is there to act positively," the governor stated in a note sent to the government along with the Bill. P6

SUNDAY STORY

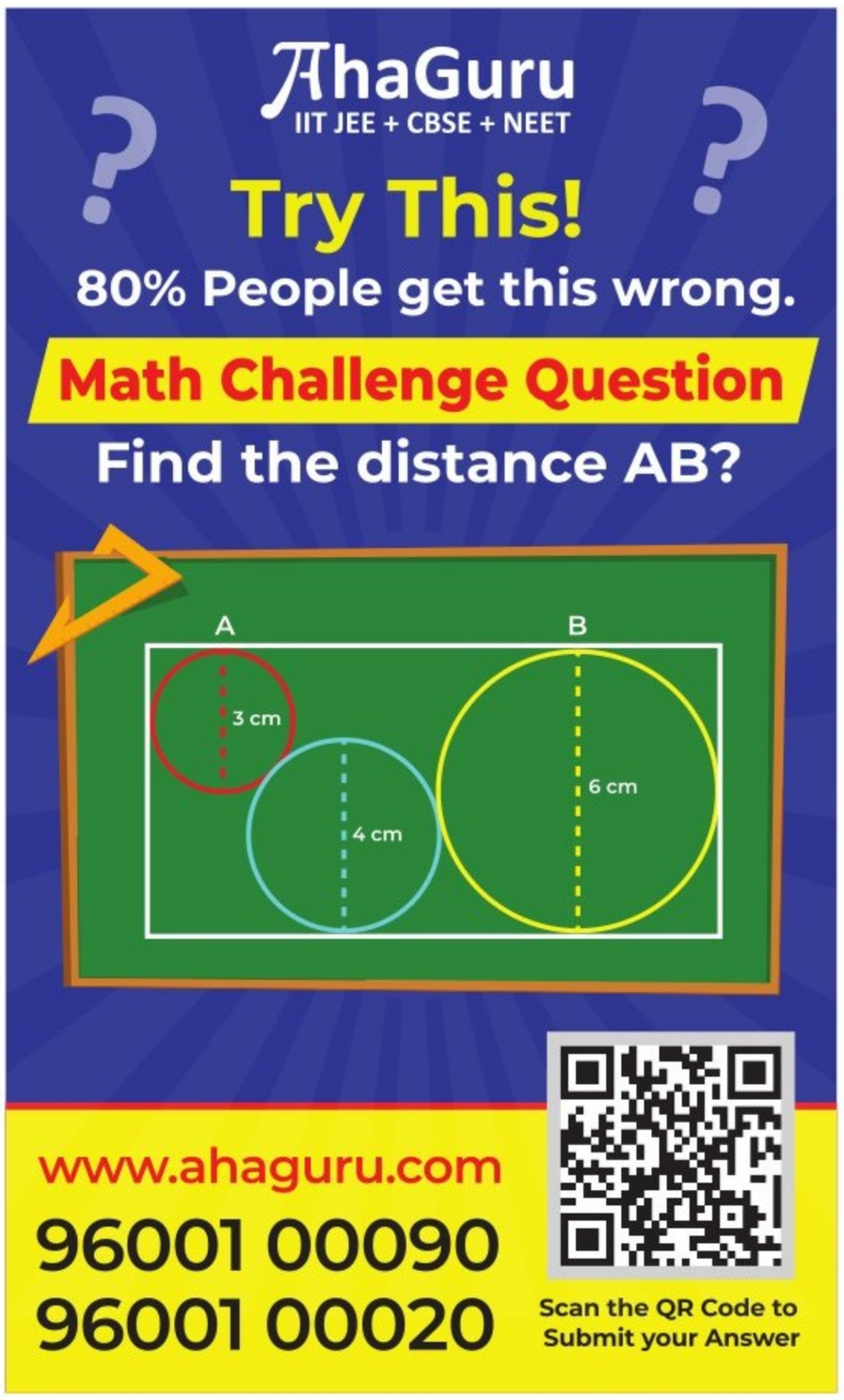
APN where dreams get wings after calamities

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

THIS Army centre is different. It is a life-giver — a place where injured Armymen can turn their nightmare into a beautiful dream and conjure inspiring tales of fortitude and belief. It's the story of the Army Paralympic Node, Pune, the country's only centre that helps to rehabilitate injured soldiers through sports.

They are some of the fittest people on earth until calamity strikes, either during deadly operations, training or even freak accidents. Some are confined to wheelchairs while others walk with the help of an artificial limb or are without fingers and hands. Their normal world turns into a life of endless ordeal. If not for sport, they would have languished in the abyss of depression.

Ask Wing Commander Shantanu, who is paralysed after a freak motorcycle accident in 2017. "When you were in active duty you are a person doing normal work and all of a sudden you are differently-abled. That feeling can kill you," he said on the sidelines of Para-athletics nationals. He was one of India's first para-rowers and now has shifted to para-athletics. "Sports gave me life." Hokato Sema, Paris Paralympic bronze medallist also found solace in sport. He lost his leg during an anti-insurgency operation in 2002 but until 2016 (the centre was yet to be officially established) he did not know what to do. The node started with just 10 athletes in 2017 now it has 48. Nitten Mehta, the secretary of APN explains: "All these athletes in the para node were once normal people leading normal lives. Suddenly there has been a tragedy due to service accidents or otherwise, and then they are at the rock bottom of their mental state. Sports gives them a second chance." P13



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ALMANAC TODAY

Sunday: 22.02.2025 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttarayana • Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Dasami 10.13 am • Nakshatra: Moola 3.32 pm • Moon in Makara Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm • Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER — MIN 18°C | MAX 33°C — FORECAST: Mostly sunny

Sunrise 06.38 am | Sunset 06.27 pm | Moonrise 02.32 am | Moonset 01.59 pm

Students of the Kannada Government School at Adahallatti village in Athani taluk hold the prizes they won in various competitions at their school

Mission on the right track

Siddamalla Khot, the headmaster of a Kannada govt school in Belagavi district, is offering a fixed deposit of Rs 1,000 for each new student enrolling in the school to increase enrolment

Students dressed in ethnic wear

Students participate in a vegetable exhibition

TUSHAR A MAJUKAR AND CA ITNALMATH
@Athani (Belagavi district)

IN an inspiring attempt to counter the steady decline in student enrolment, Siddamalla Khot, the headmaster of a Kannada government school in Adahallatti village (Hipparagi Tota), Athani taluk in Belagavi district, has introduced a unique initiative.

Out of his pocket, he is offering a fixed deposit of Rs 1,000 for each new student enrolling in the school. The deposit, made in the student's name, will mature after 18 years, serving as a small but valuable incentive for parents to enroll their children in government school.

Over the past few years, numerous government schools in rural areas have faced closures due to dwindling student numbers. Economic difficulties, demographic changes, and increasing competition from private institutions have exacerbated the problem. The Kannada government school where Khot serves has also suffered a similar fate.

Set up in 2005, this school is located along the Karnataka-Maharashtra border and once had a thriving student population. Until 2015, the school accommodated 60 to 70 students from Classes 1 to 7. However, in recent years, enrollment dropped significantly due to a teacher shortage and inadequate infrastructure. By last year, only 18 students remained, pushing the school to the brink of closure.

A mission to revive the school

Khot, who became the school's headmaster in July 2023, has taken proactive measures to attract students and restore the school's reputation. He has implemented various educational programmes to engage the community and encourage parents to send their children to school.

One of his key initiatives is a monthly quiz competition for primary and high school students in the town, where winners receive prizes. Additionally, he has launched training workshops for the youth in the village, helping them prepare for competitive examinations.

In the summer months, Khot personally conducts special classes for his students, ensuring that their learning continues beyond the regular academic calendar. With the help of donors, he and the school staff have been working tirelessly to improve the school's facilities and enhance the overall learning environment.

Khot introduced the Fixed Deposit scheme last year. "Last year, we had only two students in Class 1. This year, nine children enrolled on the very first day of the school reopening. The deposit is just a small effort on my part, but the real transformation is happening because parents and students are appreciating our educational initiatives," Khot told *The New Sunday Express*.

Growing enrolment and community support

Khot's efforts and his dedicated team are beginning to yield results. The school's enrolment is steadily rising, thanks to a well-organised admission campaign. "All our teachers are actively involved in the campaign. Many parents have reached out for admissions, and I am confident that our student count will exceed 40 by the end of this week," Khot said with optimism.

Despite the positive progress, the school still faces infrastructure challenges. It lacks an enclosure wall, making it vulnerable to external disturbances. Additionally, parents have requested the installation of a drinking water filtration system to ensure clean and safe water. Khot emphasises that his initiative is not just about financial incentives but about building a strong academic foundation for students. "We are making the best use of the resources available to us, and our students are responding positively. The fixed deposit is just a small incentive to encourage parents to trust government schools," he said.

The revival of this Kannada government school under Khot's leadership serves as a model for similar institutions struggling with low enrolment. His dedication demonstrates that even with limited resources, creative initiatives, and community involvement can breathe new life into government schools.

By combining innovative incentives with quality education, Khot is not only ensuring the survival of his school but also instilling confidence among parents in the public education system. His work stands as a testament to the power of a committed educator in transforming the future of rural education.

AN FD OFFER

Siddamalla Khot is offering a fixed deposit of Rs 1,000 for each new student enrolling in the school. The deposit made will mature after 18 years, serving as a small but valuable incentive for parents to enroll their children in government schools.

This year, nine children enrolled on the very first day of the school reopening. The deposit is just a small effort on my part, but the real transformation is happening because parents and students are appreciating our educational initiatives- **Siddamalla Khot**

Ananthajith Tantry grows saffron at his house through aeroponics method of cultivation| Express

FROM KASHMIR TO KARNATAKA'S COAST

A young IT engineer from Udupi is using aeroponics techniques to grow saffron in his own home

PRAKASH SAMAGA @Udupi

SAFFRON brings vivid images of captivating rich fields lining the highways in Kashmir to mind. Bathed in natural hues, the saffron fields are a visual spectacle with thousands of vibrant flowers of purple colour revealing their precious red stigmas. Saffron infuses unmatchable colour and flavour into food and drink, which makes it a sought-after treasure. While the demand for the invaluable spice surpasses supply, this floral wonder that goes with it is almost exclusive to the picturesque valley of Kashmir.

However, a young IT professional from Udupi, along with a friend, have brought the serene saffron field to his home, albeit in a cutting-edge way. Ananthajith Tantry and his friend, Akshath BK, have grown saffron at the former's home through aeroponics method of cultivation, as their initial experiment of cultivating the spice using soil last year failed to yield the desired results. Aeroponics is a soil-free method of growing plants where the roots are suspended in the air and nourished with a fine, nutrient-rich mist. Unlike hydroponics, where roots are submerged in a nutrient-filled solution, aeroponics delivers nutrients directly through the mist, boosting growth and resource efficiency.

With his family already acclimated to coconut plantation, Tantry wanted to engage in indoor farming. He sourced the saffron tubers online and tested them growing in the soil. As it was ineffectual, he went to Belagavi last year to attend a training session and learnt that saffron tubers can be grown through aeroponics techniques. Accordingly, he transformed a room in the upper storey of his home in Bailoor, Udupi district, to grow saffron in a controlled environment.

Ananthajith Tantry and Akshath BK

IN A NUTSHELL

- Young IT professional from Udupi - Ananthajith Tantry and his friend – Akshath BK grow saffron at the former's home through aeroponics method of cultivation
- Aeroponics is a soil-free method of growing plants where roots are suspended in the air and nourished with a fine, nutrient-rich mist
- In his 180-sq ft room, Crocus Sativus species of saffron known for the culinary use of its stigmas is grown by Tantry. He has grown a total of 110 kg of saffron tubers this year and the crop will be ready for harvest by October 2025. Tantry says the crop is doing good
- Bakeries and caterers source the saffron from Tantry's yield

Currently, his 180 sq ft room has become a source of Crocus Sativus species of saffron, known for the culinary use of its stigmas. Around 110 kg of saffron tubers is being cultivated this year and the crop will be ready for harvest by October. "The crop is growing well, despite cultivation without soil. I have grown it this time using cocopeat as the base to hold on to the plant. A humidifier, which I have placed in the room, increases the moisture level in the air within the room, as during the flowering time, the temperature should be in the 6 degrees Celsius to 9 degrees Celsius limit," Tantry tells TNSE.

Since this venture is based on R&D, 50 kg of saffron tubers was already cultivated last year, he adds. This year, 110 kg of saffron tubers are being grown altogether. Further, Tantry informs that he has plans to grow about 200 kg of saffron tubers by next year.

Regarding the market prospects, he explains that bakeries and caterers are approaching him to source the saffron he has grown. Since Tantry's venture required an initial investment of Rs 10 lakh, he borrowed a loan of Rs 6 lakh through a government scheme and invested the remaining sum, independently.

Even as saffron stigmas are already in high demand by the food and beverage industry, flowers and petal demand is also catching up. Petals are sold for Rs 20,000 a kg, while for stigmas, the market price is Rs 400 per gram. (1 kg of stigma is sold for Rs 4 lakh). Last year, Tantry clocked a yield of 37 grams of saffron stigma. Meanwhile, Akshath helps Tantry in the processes of harvesting and drying the crop, before selling it. Explaining the process to ensure proper growth of the saffron tubers, Tantry says he waters the saffron plants once a week. Tantry and Akshath do not use any chemical fertilisers to grow the saffron, instead opt for neem oil, which has antimicrobial properties to arrest any potential fungal attacks. To pick good quality saffron tubers, one has to visit the fields in Kashmir and meet the farmers during the month of July, when they dig the tubers from the soil, Tantry concludes.

BBMP ordered to demolish 63 houses built on SWD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FOLLOWING a recent National Green Tribunal (NGT) order against 63 houses illegally built on the stormwater drain (SWD) connecting Hosakerehalli Lake, the District Administration has shifted the onus on Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to evict occupants and take up demolition. However, activists say that BBMP which has already passed many demolition orders against illegal buildings will repeat the same and will not heed the orders of NGT. A lake engineer clarified that the encroachments are not within the lake itself, placing the responsibility on the Stormwater Drain department to take action.

Talking to The New Indian Express, Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban Jagadeesha G said, "We have identified and marked encroached areas. Now, it is the duty of the BBMP to evict occupants," he said.

Another senior official from the Revenue Department revealed that two multistoried buildings within the SWD fall under the lake's buffer zone. Notably, both structures were built by government agencies-- Karnataka Slum Board built 30 temporary shelters, while the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) built 33 houses with concrete roofs.

"Both the government agencies should be held responsible," he said.

Activist Joseph Hoover who lives adjacent to the Hosakerehalli lake area demanded a probe against the BDA officials who approved the illegal project. Concerns over BBMP's enforcement remain high, as activists argue that despite issuing demolition orders Section 356 of the BBMP Act, the civic body has failed to take concrete action against unauthorised constructions.

'Make fire safety part of school curriculum'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

MANY young Indians lack knowledge and awareness of fire safety, a crucial area that can save lives. Experts at a panel discussion organized by Beyond Carlton, a citizen-led fire-safety initiative, emphasised the need to integrate fire safety lessons into school curricula. The discussion took place during a memorial event marking 15 years since the tragic fire incident at Carlton Towers on Old HAL Road, where nine people lost their lives and over 70 were injured on February 23, 2010.

The event began with a classical Bharatanatyam performance titled Agni: Respect and Neglect. Two artists performed a unique interplay of art, expressing the varied hues of fire through dance.

The performance provided insights into household fire hazards, prevention measures, and other aspects of fire safety awareness, highlighting how fire can be both a vital force and a destructive one in human lives.

During the panel discussion- 'Do Young Indians Care About Fire Safety?,' Kiran Yadav, founder of Sampige Foundation, emphasised that since most youths are active on social media platforms, awareness videos on fire prevention and safety measures should be created and shared online. This would help reach young people and others more effectively.

Dancer Matangi Prasan (standing) performs 'Agni: Respect and Neglect', a Bharatanatyam performance during the memorial event of Carlton Towers fire on Saturday

What is the number to dial in case of a fire emergency?

NAMMA 112 – An all-integrated emergency number

080-22971500 – Fire & Emergency Services Control

Krittika Vishwanath, a project director at Beyond Carlton, noted that fire safety knowledge is vital for saving lives.

"If individuals have basic fire safety knowledge, they can take immediate action to protect themselves and others," she said and added that incorporating fire safety education into school curricula will play a key role in spreading awareness. Children and youths can learn essential fire safety measures and share their knowledge with their parents.

Fire safety in residential areas

Another panel- 'Leading Efforts in Fire Safety in Residential Areas' focused on fire safety measures in apartment complexes. Brigade Gate Apartments representatives shared that their housing complex is equipped with small fire extinguishers in kitchens and has private officers to check fire safety norms.

Additionally, annual fire safety drills are conducted for residents. Members of the Bengaluru Apartments Federation added that they have an Emergency Response Dedicated Team (ERDT) in place to handle emergencies within apartment complexes.

The event also honoured four fire and emergency personnel from different districts for their bravery and exceptional service in the field.

EXPRESS READ

23 schools bag Wipro Earthian Awards 2024

Bengaluru: A total of 23 schools across India, including government schools, won awards at the 14th edition of the Wipro Earthian Awards for 2024, held on Saturday at Azim Premji University. The 2024 edition of the programme received over 1,500 project submissions, from which 23 winning and 43 shortlisted entries were selected by an independent jury. The winning school teams demonstrated a deep understanding of biodiversity, waste, and water through a combination of activity-based learning programmes and written essays. Anurag Behar, Chief Executive Officer of the Azim Premji Foundation, and Narayan PS, Global Head of Sustainability and Social Initiatives at Wipro Limited and Managing Trustee of the Wipro Foundation, felicitated the winning teams with certificates and cash prizes. He said, "Bringing students and teachers together from schools across the country, the Wipro Earthian programme is designed to generate action-based learning that celebrates the underlying connectedness of individuals with the larger fabric of community and nature."

A Class 10 student died of cardiac arrest in Bhyrapura village of Chikkanayakanahalli taluk on Friday. The deceased, Rahul (16), was a student of the government high school in Chikkanayakanahalli town. Rahul had returned home from school on Friday evening and complained of chest pain around 9.30 pm. His parents rushed him to the government hospital at Huliyar town. But he did not respond to treatment

Ministers HK Patil and Shivaraj Tangadagi present the Kuvempu Rastriya Award to Gujarati writer Dr Himanshi Indulal Shelat at Ravindra Kalakshetra on Satuday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

SPINAL DEFORMITY TREATMENT NOW UNDER AbARK SCHEME

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a significant step towards inclusive healthcare, the Karnataka health department has included surgical treatment for spinal deformities such as scoliosis, kyphosis and lordosis under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka health package. These conditions commonly affect children and teenagers and severely impact their daily activities and quality of life.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao shared a post on X, stating, "Spinal deformities treatment is now included under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka Scheme. We are continuously striving to address any health issues that may arise in children with utmost seriousness, ensuring they too have the opportunity to lead a healthy and fulfilling life."

According to the government order, Karnataka has approved the inclusion of spinal deformity treatment under the Unspecified Surgical Package of the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AbARK) scheme. This decision follows a request from the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST) to cover spinal deformities in children, as existing programmes like the National Health Mission's Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (NHM-RBSK) did not provide treatment options.

A total of 1,658 treatment procedures, including 36 surgical methods, have been sanctioned under the scheme without additional financial liability. The move aims to ensure better healthcare access for children with spinal deformities across the state. Each surgery must be recommended by an expert physician committee, with a treatment cost of Rs 1.5 lakh per procedure. Government hospitals will receive 75% of the approved package rate. Both government and private hospitals must follow registration guidelines to ensure high-quality treatment. The estimated cost must be reasonable and covered within the budget grant. Any modifications to the package require government approval, the order stated.

Govt to recruit 11 dental health officers

The Karnataka government has approved the recruitment of 11 dental health officers on a contract basis under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AbARK) scheme to strengthen public healthcare services. The decision follows a request to fill these vacancies in public hospitals and community health centres. The select districts include Bagalkote, Belagavi, Bidar, Tumakuru, Vijayapura, Yadgir, Koppal, Belagavi and Uttara Kannada, with each district getting one dental health officer.

WHAT ARE SPINAL DEFORMITIES?

They are abnormalities in the spine's curve or rotation. They can occur due to an injury, disease, aging and other reasons.

COMMON TYPES

- **Scoliosis:** An abnormal sideways curvature of the spine that can occur at any age.
- **Kyphosis:** A forward curvature of the upper back that can cause a hump.
- **Lordosis:** An inward curvature of the lower back that's also known as swayback.

SYMPTOMS

Uneven shoulders or hips • A head that appears tilted or off-centre • A stooped posture • Pain, weakness, numbness, or tingling in the arms or legs

Cabbie stabbed to death by friend

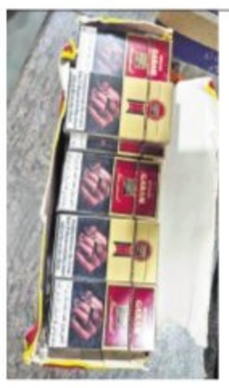
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 34-year-old cabbie was stabbed to death by his friend in full public view in Varthur police station limits on Friday night. The victim's "closeness" with the wife of the accused is said to be the reason for the murder. The victim, identified as Kishore of Chitradurga, was stabbed multiple times and was shifted to the hospital by the accused's wife. He succumbed to the injuries late on Friday night.

The accused, identified as Satish Reddy of KGF, has been arrested by the Varthur police. Both the victim and the accused were close friends and were cab drivers. Kishore was reportedly close to Reddy's wife and would regularly visit their house.

Reddy had warned the victim not to come to his house. His wife also started staying separately with her children and mother at a rented house in Kodathi. As Kishore was regularly coming to see her, she had introduced him as her brother to the house owner. Around 7.30 pm on Friday, Reddy came with a knife and lay in wait near his wife's house. When Kishore came, he picked a fight and stabbed him multiple times. Reddy then sat at the scene of the crime and did not make any attempt to escape.

A passerby immediately alerted the police control room. The police picked the accused from the crime scene.



EXPRESS READ

GST officials seize 18,000 foreign cigarettes

Bengaluru: In an operation to curb the illicit trade of contraband, state GST officials from the Bengaluru Enforcement Wing (south zone) of the Commercial Tax Department seized 18,000 cigarette sticks (900 packs) that were smuggled. A press release dated February 21 stated that based on human intelligence, searches were launched at 11 locations across the city, including Chickpet, Avenue Road, Mamulpet, Banashankari, BTM Layout, Jayanagar, Lingarajapuram and Cox Town. The seized cigarettes belonged to foreign brands such as Mond, Esse Lights & Esse Gold, DJARUM Black, Paris, Win and Gudang Garam. The contraband items have been handed over to the local police for further investigation under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), the release stated. ENS

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INDIAN NAVY
JOIN INDIAN NAVY
CBC 10701/13/0037/2425
Online applications are invited from unmarried men & women candidates, to join as Short Service Commission Officer
SSC (Various Entries) - Course commencing January 2026 onwards at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala
Branch/Cadre | Vacancies* | Gender
Executive Branch {GS (X)/Hydro Cadre} | 60 (including 08 Hydro) | Men and Women (maximum of 10 vacancies in GS (X) and 02 vacancy in Hydro for women)
Pilot | 26 | Men and Women (maximum of 05 vacancies for women)
Naval Air Operations Officer (Observers) | 22 | Men and Women (maximum of 05 vacancies for women)
Air Traffic Controller(ATC) | 18 | Men and Women
Logistics | 28 | Men and Women (maximum of 06 vacancies for women)
Education | 15 | Men and Women
Engineering Branch (General Service) | 38 | Men and Women (maximum of 08 vacancies for women)
Electrical Branch (General Service) | 45 | Men and Women (maximum of 09 vacancies for women)
Naval Constructor | 18 | Men and Women
Total | 270
* These vacancies are tentative and may be changed depending on availability of training slots.
For eligibility criteria and specific details for the batch, visit www.joinindiannavy.gov.in and
EMPLOYMENT NEWS DATED 08 FEBRUARY 2025

KPCC president and DCM DK Shivakumar may meet LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on February 25 in New Delhi, to invite them for the foundation laying ceremony for the new Congress Bhavan, coming up on Race Course Road in Bengaluru

"FIRE SAFETY: BIG POPULATION, MARGINAL AWARENESS; MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE; CAN'T DEPEND ON 'LUCK'"

TEAM TNIE

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

EXACTLY 15 years ago on this day, Bengaluru witnessed a horrific incident: the Carlton Towers fire tragedy that claimed nine lives. The incident exposed how vulnerable our buildings, particularly high-rise ones, are to fire accidents. The families that lost their loved ones came together and formed 'Beyond Carlton', an organisation committed to reducing fire accidents through education and advocacy. Its Managing Trustee and President **Uday Vijayan**, whose son was one of the nine casualties, in an interaction with the editorial team of *The New Sunday Express*, shares how 'Beyond Carlton' has brought changes, while a lot more needs to be done. Excerpts...

Can we start with the change in the last 15 years that you have noticed on the fire safety front?
Let me just go back to why 'Beyond Carlton' came into being. I think it was a month after the incident that any parent would wonder why his son could not be saved. And maybe, within the nine families which lost someone, I had the strength to go to the Director of Fire Services and ask, "Why couldn't you save my son?" It wasn't a 70-storeyed building, just a seven-storeyed building. His response really shook me. He said he did not have the powers to get into a building. How can the fire department not have the power to enter a building and look for violations? I decided something has to be done. When I asked who does, he said BBMP. The BBMP is not trained for that! And that led to the thought that a PIL should be filed in the Karnataka High Court. And the court passed orders which changed the state laws on fire safety. Regular fire safety checks then became mandatory in every building that was more than 15-metres-high. The 15 metres was changed by the government to 20 metres later. We were keen on regular inspections and certifications to be given by the fire department to any building, saying it is fire-safe. The perspectives are so wrong many a time, and hence, we decided that the certification must be given every two years. We strongly felt we needed to empower the fire services. In 2018, the then government was looking at setting a blueprint for various functions in the city. We volunteered to prepare a Fire Safety Blue Print and did it within one year by partnering with the fire department. It was a first for the country.

What are the challenges you faced?
We have challenges aplenty. One of the biggest is citizen apathy. Most of us believe we would never die in a fire. Awareness is a huge issue and we try to spread it. For instance, many do not know how to use an extinguisher and which one to use for what kind of fire. We are working with the Bangalore Apartments Federation. The first responder in large facilities or communities is the Estate Manager. So both BAF and us felt we should train them.

How much has improved after the Carlton Towers incident and after the push from Beyond Carlton?
I think a few things have changed. New high-rise buildings now have multiple exits. Setbacks are left so that when a fire truck arrives, firefighters can quickly access hoses, pumps, and other necessary tools. Another significant improvement is better coordination between the fire department and traffic police. In the Carlton Towers fire mishap, a fire truck with a ladder capable of reaching the seventh floor was stuck in traffic in Hebbal. Had it arrived earlier, it might have saved all the nine lives. Today, the coordination between traffic police, ambulances, and fire services has improved. Traffic movement for emergency vehicles is more efficient, although traffic congestion has worsened since 2010. There is also a slow, but noticeable shift in public awareness. People are beginning to move aside and give way to ambulances, a culture that is gradually taking root. Hopefully, the same will happen with fire engines.

What fire safety measures are being implemented in schools and hospitals?
Schools are starting to take fire safety more seriously. Larger schools now have two doors in each classroom for evacuation, sprinklers installed, fire extinguishers placed throughout the premises, and regular fire drills. Currently, it seems that bigger schools are implementing these measures, possibly due to parental pressure, but it is a positive trend. Hospital fires are among the most dangerous incidents. The risk is high, and evacuation is challenging. Some hospitals have begun storing fire evacuation equipment on-site.

How do fire departments handle emergencies on Bengaluru's narrow roads and heavy traffic?
To address this, the fire department has introduced motorcycles equipped with spray machines that can arrive at fire sites quickly before the larger fire trucks. They also use compact vehicles to access difficult-to-reach areas.

Are the existing fire stations enough for Bengaluru?
The city requires 80 to 100 fire stations, but currently has only about 25. This means residents rely heavily on luck in case of a fire emergency. Fire engines must travel long distances through heavy traffic, making timely response difficult. To bridge this gap, authorities have started using public-private partnerships. For example, an IT company has set up a fire station in Electronics City, and another has been established in HSR Layout by a private developer. Expanding such partnerships is crucial to improving fire response times.

EXPRESS Dialogues

How is the situation in other districts?
We do not have data at the moment, but we keep hearing of fire incidents from other districts. The number of incidents are more from highly-populated areas. But rural areas are equally and more vulnerable.

What about high-rise buildings in other countries?
In cities like Dubai or the US, fire safety in high-rises relies heavily on internal systems — sprinklers, fire-resistant lifts for evacuation, and designated safe floors above the fire level. In India, we hope to move in that direction over time, but challenges remain. High-rise buildings must mandatorily have water storage facilities on the ground and above the building exclusively for fire-fighting, pumps, hoses and valves to help fire-fighting. Most of the apartments do follow these rules. However, we were shocked to know that these valves, which are made up of brass and copper, were stolen in many places.

Do you think there is enough awareness among the masses about fire safety?
To such a big population, I can say there is marginal awareness. One good thing about the corporates and MNCs is that when they want to rent a high-rise building, they also audit if the space is equipped with fire safety measures. Not only that, they conduct regular fire safety audits. As a result, the builders too are becoming conscious about fire safety.

What about fire safety measures in small apartments and houses, where majority of the population lives?
It is challenging. Making laws for anything is easy, but implementation is where we lack. For smaller apartments, we need to be conscious, wherein you have a fire extinguisher at home and need not wait for the firemen to douse the fire.

Do restaurants need to take an NoC from the Fire Department?
Recently there was a fire at a restaurant in Koramangala, where a worker jumped down. Fortunately, it was not fatal. Fires in restaurants are a challenge. Certain cities like Mumbai insist on displaying a validated certificate, which is visible to the customers. We tried pushing it here, but it has not been implemented yet.

In the coming budget, what should be incorporated for fire safety?
There are lots of things. We have actually given out a list. Prior to elections, we had written to all the politicians to put fire safety on the agenda. Fire service infrastructure has to be increased in terms of machines, training and manpower. Bengaluru is booming, but public utilities are not keeping pace with what is required. At every BBMP ward, there must be a quick response fire team. BBMP has lots of space and just one room is enough to accommodate the team. We made some of these recommendations. The other thing we feel strongly about is the burns wards. In Bengaluru, there are only two hospitals with burns wards — one is Victoria Hospital and the other is St John's Hospital. It is extremely tough to manage burns victims medically. We made a representation to Dr CN Ashwath Narayan when he was the deputy chief minister and told him to put a burns ward in every district. Unfortunately, it did not get implemented. Cost of treatment in burns cases is extremely expensive and there must be some allocations in the budget.

Does it make sense to have fire safety as part of school or college curriculum?
We have insisted on that. We have actually gone and made a plea to put it. In Odisha, for example, clearly they want to build it into the curriculum.

Two women died in an apartment in Hulimavu in a fire incident, because of grilled windows. Is it still a concern?
It is still a challenge for the fire department. There is always a knee-jerk reaction from people and the government. After the incident, orders were issued to remove grills from all windows and balconies. A drive was also conducted. However, anxiety of burglary over safety is always a big issue. That is why people lock exit doors, which should ideally be open 24X7.

How vulnerable are electric vehicles to fire?
We are seeing a rise in cases of vehicles catching fire - EVs and conventional fuel. There is no clear mandate in the country on how to fight EV fire. The transport sector is shifting to EVs. Presently, across the country, the fire services do not have a clear SOP on how to douse an EV fire. The government needs to have a mandate.

Should the fire department be empowered with more powers and motivated with awards?
In other countries, fire fighters are seen as heroes. They are treated the way we treat our soldiers. We are the only citizens group (Beyond Carlton) in our country who go out and award our firemen who risk their lives to save us. Someone needs to tell our firemen that they are heroes. Also, the fire department needs empowerment. Besides, there should be some kind of deterrent, else things will not be implemented. Mock drills and training must be done regularly to educate people.

How do extremely personal tragedies in life turn one around?
I do not have an answer to that. More than it helped me to heal, it helped me in giving back to society. The personal loss was possibly the driving force. I get a bit of satisfaction that I am giving back something that I gained nothing from.

How are the families that lost their members in Carlton Towers tragedy doing?
We are nine families that lost somebody. Many of them were breadwinners for their families. They were on my trust. After 10 years, I asked them whether they wanted to continue. But they had major challenges in their own lives. I fully respect what they were going through and the choice they made.

Can you list five things one must know in case of fire?
First: Shout "fire", to alert family, colleagues and others around. Second: Know where the fire exits are. In case of a mall, hospitals or places where there is high footfall/occupancy, observe where exits are. Third: Learn how to use simple equipment like fire extinguishers. Fourth: Do not put water on a pan or any other kitchen item that catches fire, though it is the first instinctive decision. Instead, put a lid to cut the oxygen supply. Fifth: If someone catches fire, know some basic steps like wrapping the person in a blanket until help arrives. This helps reduce burns.

CM GETS A RESPITE IN THE MUDA CASE; THE FIGHT GOES ON

THE Lokayukta police's closure report in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) sites allotment case has come as a much-needed breather for embattled Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. While legal processes in the case will continue and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe hangs like the Sword of Damocles, the latest development seems to have come in handy for the CM to regain some lost ground, politically.

The consolation in the case — which rattled the state administration and put his party on the back foot — comes amid his preparation to present his 16th state budget, his party gearing up for the local bodies' polls, and the rising clamour for a change of guard in the party.

The budget will be presented on March 7 during the session that starts from March 3. The report, which came days before the start of the session, is expected to help Congress defang the Opposition's attack over the issue in the Assembly and the Council. At this juncture, an adverse report from the Lokayukta would have immediately pushed the CM and his government into a major crisis.

As expected, the Congress is using the Lokayukta police's clean chit to buttress its argument that the MUDA case was a politically motivated move to tarnish the CM's image. The Opposition, however, is questioning the very credibility of the report by the police officers who are under the administrative control of the state government, with Siddaramaiah himself at its helm. Several senior BJP leaders have even questioned why the sites were returned if everything was above board.

The MUDA had allotted 14 sites in the upmarket Vijayanagar locality in Mysuru to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi as compensation for acquiring 3.16 acres of land in Kesare village on the outskirts of Mysuru. After the case snowballed into a major controversy and the Governor assented to prosecute the CM, the sites were returned to the authority. The Congress has been maintaining that the sites were returned to avoid any further controversy.

The details of the 800-page report submitted by the Lokayukta police to the registry of the Special Courts to try cases against sitting and former MLAs/MPs are yet to be known. In a notice to Snehamayi Krishna, the complainant in the case, the Lokayukta police stated that the allegations against the accused were not proved due to lack of evidence. While the report will be scrutinised by the court, Krishna, a Mysuru-based social activist, has vowed to pursue his legal fight.

Legal aspects aside, many in the Congress believe that the Lokayukta report has given more strength to Siddaramaiah. The development is also likely to embolden Congress leaders demanding the appointment of a new Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief. A section of Congress leaders, including a few ministers, are said to have asked the party high command to appoint a new president for the state unit as per its "one person, one post" rule.

After the 2023 Assembly polls, DK Shivakumar continued as the KPCC president, even after he took over as the Deputy Chief Minister with two high-profile portfolios — Water Resources and Bengaluru Development. While the high command is likely to take its own time on the demand for a change of guard, Shivakumar would certainly not be keen to give up the party post, as that would diminish his authority in the party, as well as in the government.

Those backing Shivakumar believe that he has been able to devote adequate time to party work and ensure synergy between the party and the government. The party did well in the bypolls to three Assembly segments though its performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls was below its own expectations.

The next big test for the party and its leadership would be the local body polls, including elections to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The party has asked its leaders to be prepared for the polls that are likely to be held in the next two to three months.

Many senior Congress leaders say the preparations have already begun and they are confident of winning a maximum number of seats. According to them, the government's performance, including implementation of the guarantees, will be the major issue in those elections and people will not accept the Opposition's allegations in the MUDA case, as the Lokayukta has already given its report.

While the Congress focuses on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level by doing well in the local body elections and ensuring that the personal ambitions of leaders do not impact the party's interests, Siddaramaiah will be hoping to win his own battles, one at a time.

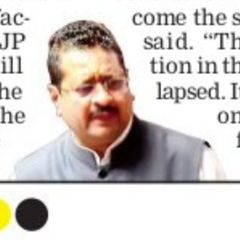
Yatnal camp still confident of replacing BYV as BJP chief

ENS @ Bengaluru

EVEN as the BJP central disciplinary committee issued show cause notice to senior BJP leader **Basanagouda Patil Yatnal**, his camp continues its campaign to have BY Vijayendra replaced from the post of the party's state president.

According to sources, Vijayendra is likely to continue as the state unit chief and an announcement is expected soon. But former minister Kumar Bangarappa of the Yatnal camp has asserted that they will continue their effort to stop Vijayendra from remaining the president.

"We have not backed down from our decision to field a candidate from our faction for the post of BJP state president. We will field a candidate if the elections are held," he told reporters here on Saturday.



"Certainly, there will be a change in the BJP state president as we have informed the high command about the developments in our state. We are not backing down from our decision. We will contest the state presidential election," he added.

He hoped that the election incharge of the state, Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, would arrive to conduct the poll process. "Yatnal has replied to the notice and we are with him. None of us is disturbed by the high command's notice. Our argument will remain until the elections. The RSS and the high command will make the right decision. If the high command considers me, I am ready to become the state president," he said. "The party organisation in the state BJP has collapsed. It is leaning towards one side. It should be fixed," he added.

SPREADING DIVINITY

Former minister SN Krishnaiah Shetty presents cans containing Gangajal to priests of Kashi Vishweshwara Temple in Chickpet, to be distributed across 2,000 Shiva temples in Bengaluru, on Saturday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

'Internal issues in Cong delaying local body polls'

BENGALURU: JDS leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy said there is no coordination among the ministers in the Congress government. The local body elections are delayed due to internal differences in the Congress, he added. Nikhil, who met JDS leaders in Tumakuru, said the Congress leaders are busy with their internal fights and are not focusing on administration. He said the JDS and BJP had an alliance in the Lok Sabha polls and both the party workers at the grassroots have a good understanding. Senior leaders from both parties will decide on the alliance for the local body polls, he said, responding to a question. **ENS**

Governor asks state govt to begin process to appoint V-C for RDPR University

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"THE observations and justifications for the amendment in the submission note are summarily misleading and seem more like an attempt to usurp power," the governor stated.

He cited Article 254 and Supreme Court judgments settling the matter regarding supremacy and constitutionally binding nature of the UGC regulations on the state legislation with regard to the University Acts and stated that the current proposal is unconstitutional.

He suggested to the government to initiate the process of V-C's appointment, which has been deliberately kept on hold. "The state, by having specialised universities, has specific Acts for the same. But according to my observations of these specialised universities, they have become orphans and the state government has paid little attention to their development all these years," the governor said.

"The RDPR University has not had one single permanent faculty from the time of its inception," he said.

The governor took note of the government's intention to bring in Mysuru Development Authority Bill, 2024, to replace the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) when investigations into the alleged irregularities in MUDA are on. He returned this Bill. A one-man commission of inquiry, inquiry by the Enforcement Directorate and an inquiry by the Karnataka Lokayukta are under way, he pointed out.

"Further, cases are pending in various courts in this regard. In this scenario, it is not advisable to create a new entity in place of an existing one. In my opinion, it would be better to enact this legislation after the conclusion of these inquiries," he stated.

The governor also returned the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments (Amendment Bill), 2024, seeking certain clarifications.

The state, by having specialised universities, has specific Acts for the same. But according to my observations of these specialised universities, they have become orphans and the state government has paid little attention to their development all these years

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot

Jayanagar police have arrested three people for stealing tyres from cars in parking zones in various parts of Bengaluru. The accused identified as Prem Kumar, Pritham and Syed Salam used to sell the stolen tyres to dealers on JC Road

WON'T ACCEPT NEP EVEN IF CENTRE OFFERS ₹10K CR TO TN: STALIN

BAGALAVAN PERIER B
@Vriddachalam

DOUBLING down on his attack on the union government over the National Education Policy, Chief Minister **M K Stalin** on Saturday said he would not agree to implement it even if the centre offered to provide ₹10,000 crore to the state. "Acquiescing to the centre's demand for ₹2,000 crore would push the progress of the state backwards by 2,000 years," he said.

Opposition to NEP was not merely due to the attempt to impose Hindi, but also because of various other factors that would have serious consequences for the future of students and the idea of social justice, he said. Apart from encouraging a screening test for admissions to even arts and science colleges, the NEP would also allow students to discontinue their studies. "Allowing students to discontinue studies is akin to asking them not to study," Stalin said, addressing an event organised by the Parents-Teachers Association in Vriddachalam.

"The union government's economic survey acknowledges Tamil Nadu's progress in education, but it withheld ₹2,152 crore meant for the welfare of 43 lakh TN students because we rejected the NEP. We are not against any language, including Hindi, but we will not allow any language to be imposed upon us," he said.

Listing out what he saw as some of the regressive aspects of the education policy, the CM claimed that NEP will lead to the dilution of Tamil Nadu's social justice policies and discontinuation of financial aid for SC, ST and OBC students. "The mandatory board exam proposed for Classes 3, 5 and 8; introduction of semester exams for Classes 9 to 12; NEET-like entrance exam for engineering and arts courses; and vocational education from Class 6 would push students towards occupation based on caste," Stalin said.

Criticising the union government for the disproportional allocation of funds for other languages, Stalin said, "For Sanskrit, which only a few thousand people speak, the centre has allocated ₹1,488 crore. But for Tamil, spoken by 8 crore people, only ₹74 crore has been allocated."

Despite the central fund cuts, Tamil Nadu would continue to implement all its school education programmes without any interruption, he said. "This year alone, ₹44,000 crore has been allocated for school education and ₹8,200 crore for higher education," he said. Pointing to the participants, Stalin said, the 'Celebrate Parents' initiative aims to strengthen relationships between parents and teachers. "Parents are the first teachers, and teachers are the second parents. Tamil Nadu government will always stand with you in this mission," he said.

SUMMER READY

A roadside vendor decorates an earthen pot in Bhubaneswar on Saturday | SHAMIM QURESHY

'A false case to mislead investigation'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

MAHADEVAPPA said, "The girl is as young as my daughter. This is a false case meant to mislead police investigation."

The problem started after the girl and a boy boarded the bus at City BIT and asked the conductor to give one free ticket to her and one paid ticket to her brother. However, the driver issued two paid tickets. This led to an argument between them. While the girl spoke Marathi, the conductor told her to speak Kannada.

Meanwhile, the girl alerted her family members about the incident over the phone. When the bus reached Balekundri (KH) village, a group of people, including some from the girl's family, reportedly attacked the conductor. But the conductor, in his complaint, claimed that the fight broke out when she asked him to speak Marathi.

Report against inspector

According to sources, when the bus conductor went to the police station after the attack on Friday, inspector Kalyanshetti did not register a complaint and sent him back. He then got admitted in BIMS Hospital, where a medico-legal case was registered.

The DCP (L&O) has submitted a report to the police commissioner against the inspector for not initiating immediate action. The matter would have been resolved in the initial stage had the inspector acted on the conductor's complaint, the sources said. Lada Martin Marbanyang, the police commissioner, said four people have been arrested in connection with the attack on the conductor. Investigations are on. Action will be taken accordingly, he added.

BJP DEMANDS STERN ACTION

Bengaluru: BJP state president BY Vijayendra urged the state government to take stern action against those who assaulted a KSRTC bus conductor for not speaking Marathi. Taking to social media to condemn the assault on the conductor, the BJP leader said anti-social elements are committing hooliganism in the name of language. Terming the incident an assault on the government staffer in the name of Marathi language as the height of linguistic violence, the BJP leader said there is no question of tolerating such acts. He urged the state government to take precautionary measures to ensure that such incidents do not recur as they threaten Marathi-Kannada harmony. Police in Belagavi have arrested four persons for allegedly assaulting a bus conductor for not speaking in Marathi with a commuter.

EXPRESS READ

Olympian Beenamol's sister killed in Kerala road accident

Idukki: A couple and their relative were killed when a jeep lost control and plunged into a gorge at Panniyarkutty in Idukki late on Friday night. The deceased have been identified as Bose, 55, Edayodi, his wife Reena and their relative Thattapillil Abraham, 50. Bose and Reena died on the spot. The driver of the vehicle, Abraham, who sustained severe injuries and was under treatment at a hospital in Rajakkad, succumbed to his injuries on Saturday. Reena is the elder sister of Olympian K M Beenamol and Olympian K M Binu. They were returning after visiting a relative's house at Mullakanam when the incident occurred. Local residents, immediately informed the police and fire force, who conducted rescue operations.

Last active Maoist arrested in Tamil Nadu

Kochi: In what could be termed as a body blow to the Maoist movement in Kerala, the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested its last remaining active member from Tamil Nadu. A native of Pollachi, Santhosh was taken into custody near Hosur on Friday. According to ATS sources, Santhosh was involved in Maoist activities for the past several years. He was a close associate of C P Moideen, Soman and Manoj, who were arrested from various locations last year. He was wanted in several Maoist cases in Kerala. "Following the arrest of Moideen, Soman and Manoj, Santhosh had moved base to Tamil Nadu. Following a tip-off, he was arrested from Hosur, near the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border," sources said.

MHA directions: 2 IPS officers relieved by TG government

Hyderabad: Following the Ministry of Home Affairs directions, the Telangana government relieved the two IPS officers, Anjani Kumar and Abhilasha Bisht, to join the Andhra Pradesh cadre. Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari issued orders to this effect on Saturday. It may be recalled that the MHA, after rejecting the request of three IPS officers to continue their service in Telangana as they were originally allocated to the Andhra Pradesh cadre, directed the state government to relieve them. With this, the government has relieved Anjani Kumar (1990 batch), who served as DGP of the state and Abhilasha Bisht (2011 batch), who is currently working as Director of the Police Training Centre.

Invest Kerala Global Summit attracts ₹1.53L crore worth proposals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

IN a major boost to its economic climate, Kerala received Expressions of Interest (EoIs) for investments worth ₹1.53 lakh crore at the two-day Invest Kerala Global Summit 2025 that ended on Saturday.

Industries Minister P Rajeeve hailed it as the "new beginning of a united Kerala," emphasising the state's commitment to fostering a favourable investment climate.

"As many as 374 companies have evinced interest in establishing, expanding, diversification and reinvesting, and submitted EoIs that will bring about a consolidated investment of ₹1,52,905.67 crores. Besides, a total of 24 IT companies expressed interest in expanding operations in the state, bringing an additional investment of nearly ₹8,500 crore and generating 60,000 more job opportunities," Rajeeve said at the valedictory ceremony.

Top investors include Karan Adani, who has pledged ₹30,000 crore, followed by HiLITE Group with ₹10,000 crore. Lulu Group, Monarch Surveyors and Engineering Consultants Ltd, Sharaf Group, and Tofl Pathanamthitta Infra Ltd, each committed ₹5,000 crore.

Additionally, Sri Avantika International Ltd has pledged ₹4,300 crore, Cherri Holdings ₹4,000 crore, NRG Corporations Pvt Ltd ₹3,600 crore, and Prestige ₹3,000 crore. Rajeeve said the government will include a dashboard-based online system, a dedicated toll-free number for investors, and periodic reviews by a committee chaired by the chief secretary.

Fire destroys 35 acres of forest at Chamundi Hills

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

THE forest fire that engulfed Chamundi Hills on Friday destroyed 35 acres of forest, forcing the forest officials to step up the vigil to track the source of fore. However, there was no loss of lives of wild animals. The forest and fire personnel, with great difficulty, doused the raging flames around 11.30 pm on Friday

Not leaving anything to chance, the authorities have pressed a drone survey to ensure that there was no fire on the hill as the fire had spread in the valley area when the wind was blowing at 45 km per hour and the mercury level was 33 degrees Celsius.

Speaking to media here on Saturday, Mysuru Division, DCF Basavaraju said the miscreants had set fire in two places and an FIR has been registered in the local police station.

He said the forest department that closes all four gates leading to the temple by 10 pm now has requested the district administration to close the gates at 6 pm.

HDB Financial Services Ltd.
Registered Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009. Branch: No.195/38, 1st floor HDFC Building 10th Cross Road, Wilson Garden Bangalore-27.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice U/s 13(2) read with Section 13(13) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

You, the under mentioned Borrower/Mortgagor is hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needless to mention that this Notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No.	Date of NPA & Demand Notice Date	Amount Due in Rs./ as on
1	**1) Sree Hanuman Electricals,** No. 296, Khaleel Building, Chickpet, Bangalore-560053, Karnataka, **2) Sai Hanumesh Trading Co.,** No.1213, 2nd Main Road, Vijayanagar, Pipeline Road, Bangalore-560053, Karnataka, **3) Sa Nagashree,** No.16, 50feet Corss Road, Ganesha Temple Street, Girinagar, Bangalore-560085, Karnataka, **4) S Naveenkumar,** No.1213, 2nd Main Road, Vijayanagar, Pipeline Road, Bangalore-560053, Karnataka, **5) S Aswathnarayana,** No.1213, 2nd Main Road, Vijayanagar, Pipeline Road, Bangalore-560053, Karnataka, **6) Sree Hanuman Electricals,** No.295 Khaleel Building, Chickpet, Bangalore-560053, Karnataka, **7) Nagashree S,** No 16, 10th Main Road, 50feet Road, Ganesh Temple Road, Meneshwara Block, Girinagar, T Block, Banashankari, Bangalore-560085, Karnataka, **8) Naveenkumar Sringeri,** No.1213, 2nd Main Road, Vijayanagar, Pipeline Road, Bangalore-560053, Karnataka, **9) Sringeri Aswathnarayana,** No. 1213, 2nd Main Road, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040, Karnataka, **10) Sai Hanumesh Trading Co.,** No. 1213, 2nd Main Road, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040, **11) Soumyarani Sringeri N,** No. No. 1213, 2nd Main Road, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040.	Loan Account No. 3416930 & 15444130	Date of NPA: 02-01-2025 Demand Notice Date: 14-02-2025	Rs. 2,97,67,265.7 as of 13-02-2025 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc.

Schedule of the Securities-I: All that peice and parcel of property bearing No. 1213, 2nd Main, Off Pipe Line Road, Hosahalli Extension, Vijayangar 1st Stage, Bangalore-560040. North: No. 1216, South: Road, East: 1214, West: No. 1212.

Date: 14-02-2025, Place: Bangalore — Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDB Financial Services Ltd.

தமிழ்நாடு கால்நடை மருத்துவ அறிவியல் பல்கலைக்கழகம்
TAMIL NADU VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY
MADHAVARAM MILK COLONY, CHENNAI – 600 051

SEARCH COMMITTEE NOTIFICATION

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Government of Tamil Nadu, vide G.O. (Ms) No. 07, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries, and Fishermen Welfare (AH-6(2)) Department, dated 7th February 2025, and Tamil Nadu Government Gazette Notification No. 57, dated 7th February 2025, has constituted a Search Committee to recommend a panel of three names to the Hon'ble Governor-Chancellor for the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai.

The Search Committee invites applications for the post of **Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University,** Chennai, from distinguished academicians with the highest level of competence, integrity, moral and institutional commitment, and possessing the educational qualifications and work experience as notified by the Government of Tamil Nadu in G.O. (Ms) No. 214, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries (AH-6), dated 6th November 2017, and Tamil Nadu Government Gazette Notification No. 358, dated 6th November 2017, a copy of which is available on the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University website (**www.tanuvas.ac.in**). The Vice-Chancellor shall hold the office for a period of three years (provided that the person appointed as Vice-Chancellor shall retire from office if, during the term of office, he/she attains the age of 70 years).

Interested candidates possessing the required qualifications and experience may download the prescribed application format from the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University website. The completed application must be submitted (only in the prescribed format) via email in PDF format, along with a hard copy sent by registered/speed post, duly superscribing the envelope with **"Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University,"** so as to reach the following address on or before 5:00 p.m. on 22nd March 2025 (Saturday).

Prof. J. Prakash
(Nodal Officer, Search Committee for the Selection of Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University)
Registrar, Anna University, Chennai - 600 025
E-mail: tanuvassc@gmail.com

Applications received by the Nodal Officer after the publication of this notification in the website/ newspaper will be considered. Applications or any additional information received after the closing date will not be entertained under any circumstances. Applications should not be sent directly to the Search Committee members. Canvassing in any form will disqualify a candidate.

DIPR/195/Display/2025 — **Convener**

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra

ZONAL OFFICE
465/A, Second Floor, Opp to NMKRV Women's College, 22nd Cross Road, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560 011
TELE : 080-26706723; 26706722 / E-mail : recovery_ban@mahabank.co.in
Head Office: Lokmangal,1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

EMPANELMENT OF RECOVERY AGENTS

Applications from eligible individuals / firms/ Agencies / Companies for empanelment as Recovery Agents are invited by Bank of Maharashtra. The interested entities may submit the Application in prescribed format along with relevant documents to Bangalore Zonal Office latest by **5.00 p.m. on 28.02.2025**. For eligibility and other details, please visit our Bangalore Zonal 465/A, second Floor, Opp to NMKRV Women's College, 22nd Cross Road, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560 011, **Mr. V. Shakthivel, Chief Manager, Mob-9594544454**.

Sd/- Zonal Manager
23.02.2025 — Bank of Maharashtra, Bangalore Zone

KITTUR RANI CHENNAMMA RESIDENTIAL SAINIK SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, KITTUR - 5911158
Dist: Belagavi, State: Karnataka State [India]
Phone: 08288-234601 / 234605, 9483501100
E-Mail: kittursainikschool@gmail.com
website: www.kittursainikschool.org

VACANCIES

1. Kittur Rani Channamma Residential Sainik School for Girls Kittur, an all girls fully residential School, affiliated to the CBSE and member of the IPSC, needs the following:-

(a) TGT (Eng, Maths, Science and Hindi): Graduation in the subject concerned with B Ed, teaching experience from Classes VI to X in a CBSE School. Pay Scale: 9300 - 34800 with Grade Pay of Rs. 4200 Entry Pay Rs. 14,430/- Total starting emoluments Rs. 36075/- per month.

(b) Lady Psychologist cum Counsellor: The candidate should have relevant degree and experience in counselling school students.

(c) Classical Music Teacher : Proficiency in Classical music instruments like Sitar/Tabla/Harmonium etc.

(d) Western music Teacher : Proficiency in Guitars, Keyboards, Piano, Drums etc.

(e) Lady Physical Education Teacher : Graduation with BP Ed, with experience in a School. Pay Scale: 9300 - 34800 with Grade Pay of Rs. 4200. Entry Pay Rs. 13,500/- Total starting emoluments Rs. 33750- per month.

(f) ಕುದುರೆ ತರಬೇತಿದಾರ : ಕುದುರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿಸುವ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರಿಗೆ ಕುದುರೆ ಓಡಿಸುವ ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೊಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಣಿತರಿರಬೇಕು. **Horse Trainer:** Should be able to manage Horses and train the cadets in Horse riding.

(g) Lady Karate Coach : Higher Secondary with experience and National/ State Certificate.

(h) Lady Swimming Coach : Higher Secondary with experience in teaching swimming. Candidates with Life Guard certificate will be given preference.

(i) Lady Warden : Graduates with fluency in English.

(j) Lower Division Clerk. Graduation with minimum 2 years experience, English typing. Desirable Kannada typing, good knowledge of handling Tally.

Salary: For (b), (c), (d), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) salary will be fixed based on qualifications and experience.

Perks: Free Food and Single accommodation. Family accommodation is also available.

Please apply with recent pass port size colour photograph and copies of relevant testimonials by registered AD to The Principal, Kittur Rani Channamma Residential Sainik School for Girls, Kittur-591115 Dist: Belagavi, (Kar) or email to kittursainikschool@gmail.com. Last date for receipt of applications 14.03.2025.

Sd/-
Principal
Date: 22.02.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that, our clients has proposed to purchase the Schedule property mentioned hereunder from its present owner **SRI. RAMAPPA M UPPAR** S/o. Late. Mudakappa .S. Uppar Residing at No.18 & 19, Sy.No. 48/1, Kaveri Residence Road, Chandana Layout, Near Golden Apartment, Srigangadakavalu, Sunkadakatte, Bangalore-560091. Person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, share, title and interest in the Schedule property may lodge their objections/claims with the undersigned counsel along with supporting documentary evidence within 5 days from this day of publication and any objection/claims received thereafter will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned Schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

-: SCHEDULE PROPERTY :-

All that part and parcel of an Immovable Residential Property bearing Site Nos. 18 & 19, formed in Sy.No.48/1, Old Katha No.105, Present BBMP Katha Serial No.81, Municipal No.81/105/48/1/18/19, erstwhile coming under the limits of Rajarajeshwari CMC Ward No.2 and presently coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No. 129-Jnanabharathi Ward and assigned old PID No.81/48/1/18&19/84, New E-PID No. 3963976420 situated at Chandana Layout, Srigandhadakaval Village, Sunkadhakatte, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore measuring East to West 49 feet and North to South 50 feet totally measuring to an extent of 2450 Sq.feet and out of which 1000 Sq.feet was constructed in Ground Floor and 1000 Sq.feet was constructed on First Floor with brick walls, RCC Roof, Mosaic Flooring, Jungle wood for doors and windows and having water, Electricity and drainage connections to it, with all rights appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and which is bounded as follows:-

East By : Other Property, **West By :** Road, **North By :** Property No.17, **South By:** Property No.20.

M. KIRAN KUMAR, ADVOCATE
MKS LAW ASSOCIATES
No.72, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Kaveri River Road, Brundhavan Nagar, Bangalore-560019.
Mob: 8050019912

ಭಾರತೀಯ ರೆಡ್ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಭಾರತೀಯ ರೆಡ್ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಒಂದು ಮಾನವೀಯ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, 2012 ರಿಂದ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಕ್ತ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸೇವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ರೆಡ್ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಭವನ, ರಕ್ತನಿಧಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ನಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನದಿಂದ ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ನಕ್ಷೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ದರ್ಜೆ 1 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ BOQ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ Manual Tender ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲು ಭಾರತೀಯ ರೆಡ್ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಣಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
01	ರೆಡ್ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಭವನ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	306.00 ಲಕ್ಷ	4.50 ಲಕ್ಷ

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **24-2-2025**
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಪಡೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-2-2025 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03-3-2025 ಸಂಜೆ:5-00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ**
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 4-3-2025 ಸಮಯ: 4-00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**
ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 7-3-2025 ಸಮಯ: 4-00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**
ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ: ರೂ.1500/-
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸದರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08156-272118, 9480779644, E-mail ID: redcrosscbpr01@gmail.com.

ಸಹಿ/- **ಸಭಾಪತಿ/ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ**
ಭಾರತೀಯ ರೆಡ್ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ (ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ)
ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ–571313
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **6360790592** — Email: ddnc.pue@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶಾಶಿಇ(ಪಪೂ)/ಉನಿ/ಎನ್‌ಸಿ/ಆಸಪಪೂಕಆಉ/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಪ.ಪ್ರ/2024–25 — ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–02–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ (ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ), ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ, ಇವರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ 04 ಆದರ್ಶ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡು ಆದರ್ಶ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳನ್ನಾಗಿ ಉನ್ನತೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ Library with digital facilities ಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮತ್ತು General Repairs works ಗಳ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು KTPP ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಖರೀದಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸ	ವಿವರಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಮೊತ್ತ	ಪರಾ
1	Purchase and Installation of Library with digital facilities	PUED/2024-25/IND0023/CALL-2	ರೂ 20,00,000/–	ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್
2	General Repair works	PUED/2024-25/IND0024	ರೂ 12,00,000/–	ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್

ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ http://www.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–02–2025 ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–02–2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ (ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ)
ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ

ಸಂ:ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ:ಚಾ.ನಗರ:638:2024–25

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"Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art"

Eleanor Roosevelt

MARKET MIASMA: GROWTH BUBBLES AND BEARISH IDES

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
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STOCK markets across the world find themselves propelled into a miasma of known and unknown fears. The past week saw bearish ides triggered by a chorus of doubts. Eerily, everything that fomented hubris is haunted by doubts—from exceptional metrics of tech stock valuation to perceptions of growth. Every argument is daunted by geopolitics and the chaos in Trumpistan.

This weekend, the chatter on Wall Street and Dalal Street is enveloped by the fear of bubbles bursting and a crash. Typically, the market moves in a herd. If exuberance is funded by folks chasing yesterday's returns, the fear is that a crash could arrive as folks exit to cut losses as the market turns negative. A Bank of America report warned of a bubble similar to nifty-fifty and dot-com eras—and that this could take down the S&P500 by 40 percent. Kallum Pickering, chief economist at investment bank Peel Hunt, points out that "the US economy resembles a textbook government debt-fuelled bubble".

The twitches of the past weeks turned into tremors on Friday as data in the US cast doubts on the sustenance of the thesis of US exceptionalism. Weak consumption and worsening inflation expectations—the highest since 1995—coalesced to trigger the bearish ides. Low-cost retailer Walmart lowered its forecast for the year and the bellweather University of Michigan survey revealed a slide in consumer confidence. Unsurprisingly, Friday saw benchmark American indices swinging from optimism to dire pessimism. The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged over 700 points, the S&P500 slid over 100 points and the tech index Nasdaq Composite fell over 400 points. Stocks in Europe are expected to open down this week and the US indices are flashing red and amber.

It didn't take long for the aftershocks to arrive on India's coastline. On Saturday morning, the market was abuzz as the Gift Nifty was quoting in the red, at -289 points for Monday. India's stock markets have already been hammered by selling pressure. Just in January and February, foreign investors sold stocks worth over $11 billion or around ₹1 lakh crore. Aggravation arrived with commentary on unrealistic valuations in small- and mid-cap stocks. Despite deep corrections, price-earnings ratios are still elevated for mid and small caps in relation to earnings—one market participant urged investors to stop putting money in systematic investment plans or SIPs.

While SIP flows have sustained the fear in the markets, among investors and funds, now is about stalling a reversal of flows into mutual funds as returns on investments are threatened. The return on indices for this year is negative and for the 12-month period is lower than that on fixed income. The contest between domestic inflows and FII outflows is reminiscent of the old Bollywood quip of Ajit: it's as if the markets are trapped in 'liquid oxygen', whence liquid is not letting hope live and oxygen is stalling its death.

The thesis of Indian exceptionalism was busted following the release of the second quarter's GDP data. Further validation has arrived—in the Reserve Bank's lowering of India's growth, the dip in advance GDP estimates released this month and forecast for the coming financial year. Third-quarter results from the corporate world didn't spur hope either—this week, analysts at Motilal Oswal dubbed the results the worst in 19 quarters.

Thanks to the uncertainty and regulatory cholesterol, Indian companies—who are sitting on cash reserves of over ₹7 lakh crore—have chosen not to invest. Add the slide in net foreign direct investment; in the April-December 2024 period, net FDI was down to $1.2 billion. The impact is manifest in data and forecasts. It is scarcely surprising then that analysts at Nomura downgraded growth forecasts for the current fiscal to 6.0 percent, lower than the government estimate of 6.4 percent, and to 5.9 percent for the next fiscal, lower than the government's 6.3-6.8 percent.

The inadequacies of India's economic policies are worsened by the travails triggered by Trump's tariff tamasha and fears of a slowdown or recession in the US and elsewhere. A litany of studies validate that protectionism pushes up inflation, and lowers growth and employment. Trump's tray of tactics—tariffs on basic inputs, reciprocal levies, retaliatory taxes, and the much-discussed idea of a border tax as tariff—are expected to kick in the next few weeks. These will upend fiscal and monetary math and entrench uncertainty.

Thanks to the parade of political populism, global growth is far from stable. This weekend, Germans will vote for a new government, whose outcome will inform and influence growth in the world's third largest economy. Europe's GDP growth for 2024 was sub-par—with the fourth quarter registering a measly 0.1 percent. Beyond the exuberance of DeepSeek's success, GDP growth in China is a question between answers; its troubles in the realty sector or domestic consumption are far from sorted. The Japanese economy sputtering at pre-pandemic levels is also vulnerable to the tariff threats.

Come Monday morning, the markets will inform the world about the state of the global economy.

Tailpiece: For 20 months, a minister in Punjab was in charge of a section that does not exist. The name? The department of administrative reforms. Talk about systemic apathy!

HUMILIATING INDIANS TRIPS TRUMP'S MISSION

POWER & POLITICS

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IDENTITY is a matter of pride, not prejudice. For a decade, India was hailed as the rising Asian power to counter China—an economic behemoth, a foreign policy superpower and a vital Vishwaguru. Global Goliaths in business viewed it as a favoured investment destination and an independent power that could coolly thumb its nose at US sanctions by buying Russian oil, because it suited its domestic interests. American presidents and European leaders courted New Delhi with more ardour than Mark Antony had wooed Cleopatra. It looked as if India had regained its old identity as the world's golden bird or '*sone ka chidiya*' breaking free of the chains of a colonial hangover and a Noachian socialist legacy.

But this month, the chains were back; illegal Indian migrants were sent back on US military planes, shackled and handcuffed as if they are criminals. They were neither a desi Costra Nostra or even accused of crimes. The White House released the humiliating pictures of Indians, although aliens deported to China, Pakistan and numerous Islamic countries were neither chained nor filmed. Many terror attacks on the West were masterminded by criminals and cyber villains from these countries. Some 100 Pakistani nationals were flown to Panama because Islamabad refused to accept them. Surprisingly, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement have no firm estimates of illegal Pakistani immigrants, and they were not hounded out like Mexicans and Indians.

Indians are Trump's new pariahs, even though Indian Americans have founded 11 percent of the startups valued at over $1 billion, own around 60 percent of American hotels and head 16 *Fortune 500* companies. They pay $250-300 billion in taxes every year. Yet, singling out India is not new in the US, although it has rarely made prime time. Team Trump's attempt to minimise India's relevance in international diplomacy is an indication that the American elite's *weltanschauung* is not Bharat-positive.

Last week, the Indian embassy in Panama posted on X: "Panamanian authorities have informed us that a group of Indians have reached Panama from the US. They are safe and secure at a hotel with all essential facilities. The embassy team has obtained consular access." While the US plans to deport over half a million Indians, South Block has agreed to accept only 18,000. The process of packing them home started earlier, but hit the headlines only after Trump 2.0's decision to signal an international spectacle.

AP

No host government has comprehensive data about actual deportation figures. A data deep-dive reveals a worrisome trend. The US started deporting Indians with a vengeance under Barack Obama's regime during UPA's time. During 2009-16, around 6,000 Indians were sent back—an annual average of 750. However, the largest number in a year—1,303—was in 2016. Trump's first term during 2017–20 saw a massive spike in expulsions—an average of 1,550 Indians a year. The largest number in this era—2,042—came during 2019, when Modi and Trump were flaunting their election-year bonhomie.

Under Joe Biden, there was a minor decline in the Indian bum's rush: 900 annually, totalling 3,627 for 2021–24. If the number of Indians sent back during Trump's second tenure is an indication of diplomatic and geopolitical estrangement, it is evident that this POTUS is on track to break his own record despite his avowed friendship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A large number of deportees are Gujaratis.

None of the previous deportations made headlines because the US authorities did not shackle them in a way that slave traders brought African captives into the Americas in the 17th century. Egomaniacal Trump perhaps cannot tolerate another rising non-white world leader like Modi: his is a World of One.

Part of the blame for the deportation ignominy goes to the ministry of external affairs. The Indian government should have made arrangements to bring them back on commercial aircraft. In 2018, Sushma Swaraj announced that India had successfully rescued over 90,000 Indians over four years. The Modi government has an admirable track record of safely bringing citizens home. This time, the opposition has blasted the Centre for its avoidable failure in dealing with the delicate situation which wounds the personal dignity of the immigrants.

Common friends of India and the US are asking awkward questions like why POTUS hasn't meted the same deplorable treatment to the illegals from Pakistan and China. Optics is the smoke signal of diplomacy, which Prussian general Carl von Clausewitz called 'war by other means'. Trump seems to have declared an emotional war on India, exulting in the *schadenfreude* of Viksit Bharat's disgrace.

According to the US government, there are more than 15 million illegal immigrants in America. Trump's new hardline deportation policy, launched after his January 20 inauguration, aims to execute the "largest deportation programme in American history". Mexicans top the list of unauthorised immigrants, with approximately 4.8 million, followed by Guatemalans (675,000) and El Salvador (750,000). Since 2022, about 2 million people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela have sneaked into the US. Of this, around 675,000 crossovers were by Indians—a number much smaller than the rest.

Back-of-the-envelope calculations indicate that it would be almost impossible for Trump to deport even 1 percent of all illegal immigrants during his tenure. Besides, shrinking the labour force will cripple the $30-trillion US economy. It costs $850,000 per flight to deport 80-100 aliens. Trump's singling out of India to advertise his new avatar as an ultra-nationalist reflects the adage of having no permanent friends in politics. Trump has neither permanent friends nor interests, except his own.

In his populist crusade, the billionaire president is ignoring a harsh business reality. Even the least educated Indians have been a net asset for MAGA, as they have added economic value disproportionately larger than the rest of immigrants in the US have. The median annual income of an Indian American is around $170,000—almost double that of other immigrants. About 9 percent of the doctors in America are of Indian origin; half of them are immigrants. Although they account for just less than 1.5 percent of the population, they pay 6 percent of America's total income taxes.

While Silicon Valley's phenomenal success is attributed to Indian genes and geniuses, every fifth immigrant-founded unicorn there was started by an Indian. Above all, numerous top MNCs are led by people with roots and origins in India, so is a large section of the key officials and policy makers in Trump's regime. Contrary to the racist rants, Indians are job creators in the US, not job robbers. They are law-abiding citizens, not law-breakers. Few of them have been roadblocks to the survival of local cultures or conventions.

By resorting to barbarous expulsions, the US establishment has excoriated the soul of the Indian identity. If it wants the Indian market, then America must shun such contumelious conduct. For MAGA to be the ruling ideology of the US, Trump needs Modi and Indians as allies and accelerators.

THE EVOLUTION OF A HARAPPAN ICON

OPINION

NANDITHA KRISHNA
Historian, environmentalist and writer based in Chennai

AMONG the several domed conical stones found along the Indus Valley, two objects stand out—a small tapered cone seated on a round base and a dome-shaped cylinder on a flat base with a protrusion on one side. From being a small aniconic object that transcended popular representations of the divine as a superman, the lingam's depiction has grown—but not necessarily as a phallic object, as described by western Indologists. It's a Harappan legacy bequeathed to the Indian civilisation.

Lingam means sign or symbol—an abstract representation. It's fitted into the disc-shaped base called yoni, which means source or womb. Together, the lingam and yoni represent the eternal process of creation and resurgence.

The *Rig Veda* does not mention the lingam or even Shiva. The *Shwetashvatara Upanishad* calls the lingam a symbol that establishes the existence of Brahman, one beyond any characteristics. The *Linga Purana* adds, "Shiva is without a symbol, without colour, taste or smell, beyond word or touch, without quality—motionless and changeless."

As for the legend of their providence, there are four kinds: *swayambhu* (self-manifested), *deivika* (created by gods), *arsha* (created by rishis) and *maanusha* (man-made). Among the *swayambhu* lingams are the frozen ice lingam at Amarnath and the naturally-formed rock lingam at Kedarnath.

They are also classified by the material used or carvings depicted. A mukhalingam generally has one, four or five faces, at times eight or more too. It's sometimes carved with images of Shiva or of other deities. From the second century CE onwards, several lingams have been found in Mathura, with Shiva in the front or as one to the four faces around the pillar.

In Cambodia, there is a *chaturmukha* lingam with Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva and Buddha carved on the four sides. A famous *panchamukha* lingam in the Pashupatinath temple in Nepal is six feet high and is five-faced: four facing the four cardinal directions and the fifth looking upwards. In the Buddhist Vajrayana Swayambhunath temple not far from Pashupatinath, several four-faced lingams are carved with Buddhist deities on each side. So the multi-faced lingam does not represent a phallus.

The *panchabhuta* lingams represent the five elements of earth, water, air, fire (energy) and space. Sita is said to have made the sand lingam in Rameshwaram that's still worshipped. There are several temples where Shiva appeared as a column of fire or jyotirlingam. Out of the original 64 of them, a dozen remain around India.

The earth lingam of Ekambareshwarar temple in Kanchipuram is also made of sand and is bathed in oil, as water could dissolve it. The water lingam of Thiruvanaikaval in Tiruchirappalli sits on a perennial stream. The Arunachaleshwara of Thiruvannamalai sits on igneous rock, representing fire. The air lingam of Sri Kalahasti represents the wind: the flames inside flicker even when the airless garbhagriha is locked. Finally, the akasha lingam of Chidambaram is represented by empty space, his formless representation. None of these are phallic.

Contrary to interpretations by some western Indologists, lingams are not phallic symbols. From the cylindrical stones found in Harappa to the ones installed later across India and Southeast Asia, they represent an abstract form of the divine

The earliest phallic lingam comes from the Parashurameshvara temple at Gudimallam in Andhra Pradesh. Shiva stands before it, holding a goat in his right hand and a water pot and battle-axe in his left, on the shoulders of a gana. This lingam was probably originally situated beneath a tree. It has been dated to the 2nd century BCE, but its high degree of polish is typical of Mauryan art. The Gudimallam Shiva is probably the only surviving south Indian icon of the Mauryan period. He is a hunter, a popular form of the deity.

Hunter Kannappa Nayanar plucked out his eyes to offer them to the lingam at Sri Kalahasti, 40 km from Gudimallam, while Shiva is Kirita the hunter on the monolithic carvings at Mamallapuram, 160 km away. Lingodbhavba, or Shiva emanating from the lingam, was probably inspired by the Gudimallam Shiva.

The Cholas were staunch Shaivas who built massive lingams in temples, although the smaller, original ones are also preserved and worshipped in several places. Neither of them is phallic. When a Chola king or queen died, the body was cremated and the ashes buried beneath a lingam. The temples around them were called pallipadaikovil. Many such temples were built in the 10th-12th centuries CE.

A chala or moveable lingam is worn as a pendent on a necklace by the Veerashaiva Lingayats, a tradition from Karnataka. Lingayat men and women wear an ishtalingam inside a box strung on a necklace. It is about divinity living and moving with the Lingayat devotee.

The signifier from Harappa was not phallic. And over the following millenniums, its depiction has taken various forms—most of them not phallic. Our culture is richer today for this variety in imagination.

QUOTE CORNER

We are in a new era where international relations are going to be determined by strong men and deals. I think of the Yalta treaty of 1945 where three strong men on behalf of strong countries decided the fate of small countries. I think that's Donald Trump's mindset. It's certainly Putin's and Xi's mindset. It's not Europe's.

Alex Younger, head of British foreign intelligence service MI6 during 2014-20

Many in this generation claim to be managing family offices, trading in markets, allocating funds to mutual funds and treating it as a full-time job.

Uday Kotak, founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank, on family businesses

Gravity is really tough. It starts pulling everything to lower extremities. Fluids will be pulled down and even lifting a pencil will feel like a workout.

Butch Wilmore on his and Sunita Williams' impending return from their extended mission aboard the International Space Station

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Support farmers

Ref: *Legalising MSP* (Feb 22). The sad fact of our country is that although farmers brave the vagaries of nature and do yeomen's role as food givers, their legitimate demand for minimum support price has not been adequately resolved for no valid reason. The opposition alleges that in order to assist corporates, the central government is not acting on the farmers' genuine demands. This situation must be changed altogether.

Jayashree Thampi, Thiruvananthapuram

Federal ethos

M K Stalin has the right to interpret the New Education Policy as a 'tool to promote Hindi' and that it would not properly promote education. But he seems to hold that the move is against Tamil. He should realise that Tamils will not be at a disadvantage by learning Hindi or any other Indian or foreign language. His question on what would the central government do if his state refused to share taxes does not suit his pet cause of federalism.

Vijayachandran Neerazhikkettu, email

Preserving languages

India is home to hundreds of languages and thousands of dialects. These are the heritage of our motherland. People today hesitate to speak a regional language in their own cities, and try to be modern by accepting a foreign language. We should preserve all Indian languages with unity, and show the world our diversity and rich culture.

Chandra Sekhar Padhi, Puri

Cross-cultural learning

Though it can be an advantage for South Indians to know Hindi in addition to the mother tongue and English, it is unfortunate to note that people in the northern states are indifferent to the Dravidian languages. Many of them refuse to pick up local language despite living in the south for years. Ensuring school children in the north learn English and a southern language in addition to their mother tongue can foster national unity and avoid language issues.

Kasthurirangan Rengamani, Bengaluru

UP responsibility

Ref: *UP man held by Gujarat cops uploaded videos of women bathers at Kumbh* (Feb 22). The action was in bad taste. It's high time for the UP government to get its act together and ensure that women's privacy is protected at all costs. The government must take stringent action to prevent such incidents in the future. This includes increasing surveillance, implementing stricter laws and creating awareness.

Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Kerala's triumph

Ref: *God's own team* (Feb 22). It's a coincidence that the state reached the final of the Ranji Trophy for the first time the day Sunil Gavaskar stepped into Kasaragod on the last day of the semi final match. Cricket lovers here are delighted with the historic victory of the Kerala team and wish for them to win at the final with flying colours.

P P Sahadevan, Nileshwar

PM's silence

The problem with our prime minister is that he goes into a '*mouni*' mode in the face of a crisis and we do not hear from him until the storm blows over. There has been no statement of condolence from him for the people who died in the stampedes at the Kumbh or the New Delhi railway station. The worst was the silence around the Manipur tragedy.

Srinivas Kamat, Mysuru

Quantum leap

Congrats to Microsoft scientists for developing a state of matter that could power the next generation of superfast computers. Based on the laws of quantum mechanics, they perform certain calculations exponentially faster than supercomputers. On small scales, physical matter exhibits properties of both particles and waves; quantum computing uses this to its advantage using special hardware.

Sreelekha P S, Secunderabad

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal

Whenever Parliament session is about to start... without fail, anti-India forces like Hindenburg raise their heads, and in Parliament, the opposition repeatedly disrupts proceedings

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi

Rapid efforts should be made to make railways modern, safe & capable... Rather than relying on foreign machines, we should strengthen a completely localised production system

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra

There is no, repeat no legal provision by which Rail ministry can ask X to remove videos of New Delhi stampede – totally illegal. Railways fig leaf: "may create unwarranted law & order situation"

● PM will be in Indian Ocean Region nation on March 11, 12 ● In South Africa meet, FMs talk about 'climate of distrust'

Modi chief guest of national day during 2-day Mauritius trip

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will be the Guest of Honour at the 57th National Day celebrations of Mauritius, the Western Indian Ocean region with a population of 70% Indian origin people. He will be in Mauritius on March 11 and 12.

In a speech to Parliament, Mauritian PM Navin Ramgoolam said, "I am delighted to announce that, at my invitation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has graciously agreed to be the Guest of Honour for our National Day celebrations. It is indeed a great privilege for Mauritius to host such an esteemed leader, especially given his packed schedule and recent trips to Paris and the United States."

Ramgoolam further said that Modi's visit highlights India and Mauritius's strong and lasting bond.

India has long been Mauritius' 'First Responder' in times of crisis, offering crucial assistance during events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Wakashio oil spill. In response to Mauritius' request, India provided 13 tonnes of medicines, 10 tonnes of Ayurvedic medicines, and a Rapid Response Medical Team to combat COVID-19 in April-May 2020. Additionally, India was the first country to send 1 lakh doses of Covishield vaccines to Mauritius on 22 January 2021, followed by another 1 lakh doses of Covishield and 2 lakh doses of Covaxin on a commercial basis.

In April 2021, during the devastating second wave of COVID-19, Mauritius also donated 200 oxygen concentrators to India in a gesture of solidarity. Since 2005, India has been one of Mauritius' most significant trading partners.

In FY 2023-24, Indian exports to Mauritius totalled USD 778.03 million, while Mauritius' exports to India stood at USD 73.10 million, resulting in a total bilateral trade of USD 851.13 million. This marks significant growth from USD 206.76 million in 2005-06 to the current total.

Mauritius has also played a key role in terms of FDI to India, with a cumulative FDI of USD 175 billion flowing into India since 2000, accounting for 25% of total FDI inflows into the country.

US presence nominal, no Russia consensus at G 20

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

THE United States' withdrawal and Russia's inability to secure European consensus led the G20 Foreign Ministers to acknowledge growing geopolitical divisions during their meeting in South Africa, which concluded in Johannesburg on Thursday but without the customary group photograph.

The summary of the chair by South African minister Ronald O Lamola "recognised the widening geopolitical divisions which have contributed to fostering a climate of distrust, thus threatening to unravel progress we have made to address pressing global challenges such as poverty, climate change, pandemics, nuclear proliferation and armed conflict."

To begin with the US was presented at the meeting by Chargé d'Affaires for the US Mission to South Africa Dana Brown. Then European leaders and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov went after each other.

Lavrov accused the West of attempting to dominate the world through neo-colonialism and "white supremacy" against the Global South. British Foreign Secretary David Lammy criticised Lavrov's remarks, calling them "tired fabrications". Lammy said Russia had failed to learn, expressing disappointment that Lavrov offered no sympathy for the victims of Russian aggression and no readiness for a lasting peace.

South Africa, a BRICS partner, condemned both Russian and US governments for holding a peace negotiation session on the Ukraine war in Saudi Arabia without Ukrainian participation.

The Foreign ministers were unable to hold their customary group photo during the two-day meetings, despite organisers preparing for it, with sources indicating that this was due to apparent refusal by "some European" leaders to be photographed with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov. in apparent bid to appease the Europeans, South Africa' director-general for international relations.

Zane Dangor said, "Any peace negotiation process should be inclusive, and that inclusiveness should then include Ukraine, very clearly."

In his official summary of the meetings, Lamola referred to the wars in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, expressing "major concern" about the devastation to health and education caused by these conflicts.

He said the ministers agreed to support "all efforts toward a just peace." External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said: "And G20 must always put the imperatives of collaboration higher than the compulsions of competition."

REKHA GUPTA

LLB TO CM: 'AAM MAHILA' THEN AND NOW

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR

MANDAR PARDIKAR

REKHA Gupta's journey from a fiery student leader to Delhi's Chief Minister in 2025 is nothing less than cinematic. The pendulum swung her way when she got the chief ministership out of the blue, a role those who know her claim she hadn't actively pursued. She called it a "miracle".

It was more a man-made one, considering that this newspaper first broke the news about her prospects of becoming chief minister, soon after the results were out on February 8. Hence, it is time to introduce her to the larger audience. Though the BJP has managed to spring such surprises in other states before, the selection of Gupta is based on her administrative experience among the elected MLAs.

Gupta's experience of Delhi at ground zero as corporator did weigh in for her. Her caste would have mattered, too. A sizeable electorate of Delhi hails from her Baniya community. That her predecessor, Arvind Kejriwal, shares the same caste allows for a sense of social continuity at the top of the government.

NEWSMAKER

Gupta first stepped into the spotlight as a student union leader at Delhi University. She stood out for her energy. Her political career took off in 2007 when she won the councillor election from Pitampura (North). She raised local issues — libraries, parks, and swimming pools. The accessible 'Didi' struck a chord with the people. Even her loss in the 2023 mayoral elections couldn't break her spirit.

And she took the CM post in her stride. On a typical Saturday afternoon, her home in Shalimar Bagh buzzes with well-wishers — a regular occurrence over the years. She receives them with a smile creasing her face. She greets each person by name, bonding with them. "She's an 'aam mahila' (common woman) then and now," said Pramod, a local youth.

An advocate for women's empowerment, the 50-year-old has drawn a clear and firm line against corruption, which the BJP has raised against the previous AAP government and its chief Arvind Kejriwal during the elections. PM Narendra Modi campaigned extensively against the liquor scam, 'sheesh mahal', and DJB scams, among others, during the tenure of the AAP government. No wonder, she, after taking charge, said, "Anyone involved in corruption will have to account for every penny."

Her journey from joining the ABVP in 1992 as a teenager to becoming one of Delhi's youngest chief ministers is a story of resilience. On the day she assumed office, she told her ministers, "I don't want even a single day wasted. Let's get to work."

She hit the ground running, discussing the capital's infra with PWD officers and seeking deadlines for repairing damaged roads to improve traffic flow. The CMO is getting used to the new incumbent, who prefers to get things done.

However, 'vivad' (controversy) and 'vyavhar' (courtesy) always followed Gupta in her political career. Over time, she transitioned from a highly vocal, hyperactive campaigner to a dependable representative of her constituents. She is now transitioning from 'Rekha, LLB to Rekha, CM,' aware that her constituency has overnight expanded from a municipal ward to encompass one of the world's largest metropolises. She has to play the agile leader, alert to deliver.

In achieving what she has achieved today, Gupta has had her fair share of controversies, especially her alleged controversial social media posts on Kejriwal. Only time will tell whether the deletion of tweets suggests a shift in her staunch stance after taking charge as the chief minister.

Jaishankar says voter turnout row worrisome as Cong sharpens attack

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE political controversy surrounding the reported $21 million USAID funding for voter turnout in India continued on Saturday, with External Affairs Minister calling the accusations "worrisome".

The Congress too intensified its demand for a white paper on the US agency funding as well as funding from other American agencies in India.

"Some information has been put out there by the Trump administration people, and obviously, that is concerning... I think, as a government, we're looking into it," EAM Jaishankar said at the Delhi University Literature Festival.

"My sense is that the facts will come out...USAID was allowed here in good faith, to do good faith activities; now, suggestions are being laid out from America that there are activities which are in bad faith. It's worrisome, and if there's something to it, then the country should know who the people are involved in it," he said.

Congress leader Pawan Khera said, "PM Modi must talk to his friend, US President Trump, and strongly refute the allegation on him that the America was about to give USD 21 million to him and India for increasing the voter turnout." Khera said that between 2001 and 2024, "a total of $2.1 billion came into India," with "40 per cent of it arriving under the Modi government."

He added, "One-fourth of the total amount came since 2021, averaging $165 million per year. We demand to know who received the money."

On the Centre's claim that agencies were examining the funding issue, Khera dismissed it, saying, "Government is not telling the truth."

White paper sought

The Congress intensified its demand for a white paper on the US agency funding as well as funding from other American agencies in India. Congress leader Pawan Khera said, "Prime Minister Modi must talk to his friend, US President Trump, and strongly refute the allegation on him that the America was about to give USD 21 million to him and India for increasing the voter turnout."

This marks the third time Trump has raised the $21 million fund controversy. On Friday, he called the allocation a "kickback scheme," questioning, "$21 million for voter turnout in India. Why are we concerned about India's turnout? We've got enough problems of our own. We want our own turnout. In many cases, when you have no idea what we're talking about, it means there's a kickback because no one knows what's going on there."

Earlier Trump had said: "why do we need to spend 21 million for voter turnout in India? I guess they were trying to get somebody else elected."

CBI lodges FIR against 3 officials on charges of bribery in rly job scam

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday said that it has registered an FIR against three railway officials for allegedly manipulating a recruitment examination to ensure a job for a person in the railways in exchange for ₹15 lakh.

Officials said the anti-graft central probe agency took action after receiving a reference from the Central Railway's vigilance department. In the FIR, the CBI has named Goods Train Manager Rajendra Kumar Meena, Assistant TRD Helper Sapna Meena, and Tech-II Chetram Meena, who are all posted at the Kota division in the West Central Railway.

Along with these officials, the CBI has also booked a private person, Lakshmi Meena, who allegedly acted as an imposter and appeared in the examination in place of a candidate.

The probe agency has alleged that Sapna Meena, in connivance with the other accused, secured a job for a person in the Indian Railways through fraudulent means and in lieu of illegal financial gratification of 15 lakh. "It was also alleged that accused dummy candidate (Lakshmi Meena) had appeared in the railway exam and photographs, fake identities, fingerprints of the dummy candidate were utilised in the entire selection process of the Railway Recruitment Exam," a senior CBI official said.

Following the registration of the FIR, the official said that agency sleuths conducted searches on the premises of the accused in the Kota and Sawai Madhopur districts of Rajasthan as the investigation into the case continued.

'60 med colleges not paying stipends to interns'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

AS many as 60 medical colleges and institutions out of over 500 are not paying stipends to their undergraduate interns, postgraduate residents, and senior residents, as per file noting assessed through RTI.

Of the 60 medical colleges that failed to pay stipends, 33 are government institutes, and the rest are private. However, despite having the mandate, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has yet to take action against them.

According to the file noting, shared through February 20 RTI reply to Kerala-based Dr K V Babu, "It is observed that so far only 555 colleges - 290 government colleges and 265 private colleges, including Deemed to be Universities) have furnished their data for 2023-24 till date. The remaining 198 colleges (115 colleges and 83 private colleges, including Deemed to be Universities) out of the total 753 colleges have not furnished their data."

It also said that out of the 290 government medical colleges that submitted details on stipends, 257 said they have given stipends. But 33 said they have not given any stipends to their interns and senior residents.

Similarly, of the 265 private medical colleges which submitted NMC details on stipends, 238 said they had given the stipend. "It appears that 238 private medical colleges have given a stipend to their interns/resident/senior resident and 27 number of private medical colleges have not given a stipend to their interns/resident/senior resident," said file noting by Ram Chander, consultant.

The file noting, dated July 29, 2024, further said, "Since the inputs are to be furnished to the apex court, appropriate action needs to be taken against the defaulting medical colleges (Govt/private) who are yet to furnish their data."

Speaking with this paper, which has done a series of stories issue of stipends based on RTIs filed by Dr Babu, he said, "Sixty out of 555 medical colleges in India are not paying stipends. The medical colleges are not paying its hard-working postgraduate and interns, and NMC is not intervening; this is a matter of concern."

On the apex court's prodding, the NMC, which regulates these medical colleges, issued show cause notices to 198 colleges - 115 government and 83 private - in November, which this paper was the first to report. Despite warning them about taking penal action for not submitting stipend details, no action has been taken until now.

In fact, the NMC has washed off their hands and instead blamed the states where these medical colleges and institutions are located. However, NMC cannot shrug off its responsibility as the Maintenance of Standards of Medical Education Regulations 2023, which was gazetted on September 23, clearly states that if any regulation, including non-payment of stipends to interns and postgraduate students, is violated, several steps can be taken against the erring medical college and institution.

The violation attracts withholding and withdrawal of accreditation for five academic years and a penalty of ₹1 crore. Dr Babu also wrote to Health Minister JP Nadda on January 29 and urged him to look into the matter and intervene under Section 45 of the NMC Act.

238 colleges gave stipend

The RTI also said that out of the 290 government medical colleges that submitted details on stipends, 257 said they have given stipends. But 33 said they have not given any stipends to their interns and senior residents. Similarly, of the 265 private medical colleges, 238 said they had given the stipend. "It appears that 238 private medical colleges have given a stipend to their interns/resident/senior resident and 27 number of private medical colleges have not given it," it said.

Open access to critical data with bank staff leading to online financial fraud

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

SECURITY HOLES
Bank employees and third-party vendors leaking critical data
Cyber Criminals exploit to breach online banking system
Involvement senior management level officials not ruled out
NO ACTION TAKEN IN NEARLY
50%
OF THE FRAUDULENT A/Cs REPORTED ON THE NCRP
Banks have been asked to align their security architecture with Reserve Bank's latest advisory

A new trend has emerged posing as cyber security threat. Central cyber and intelligence agencies have flagged to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) that unrestricted access to critical banking data with bank employees and third-party vendors has directly been fuelling rampant online frauds and massive financial losses for people in the country, officials said on Saturday.

With reports pouring in from the agencies, the officials said, the issue has been taken up at the highest level in the government by the MHA calling a meeting of senior officials including those from the financial and banking institutions. "The issue had been discussed threadbare and instructions were passed on to devise a solution to this menace," a senior official, in the know of development, said.

He said, "According to the agencies' input, highly sensitive financial data exposure to outsourced staff and third-party vendors of banks leads to rampant information leaks, as they are being shared with cyber criminals, who in turn exploit to breach online banking systems to target and defraud people."

According to sources, privy to the meeting, the trend is even more alarming, as intelligence agencies said complicity of senior management level bank officials can also be not ruled out, as this has also come to light that both public and private sector banks have seldom failed to act against fraudulent activities, despite repeated complaints.

Intelligence inputs suggested that banking institutions failed to take action against nearly half of the fraudulent accounts reported on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), the sources said.

BIG CAT KILL

A farmer was mauled to death by a tiger when he was out to feed his cattle in Maharashtra's Nagpur, officials said. Hearing the victim's screams, villagers rushed to help but it was too late. This is the second death caused by a big cat in Nagpur this year.

1 KILLED

16 HURT AS BUS RETURNING FROM VAISHNO DEVI FALLS INTO GORGE

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	32	21	Mumbai	36	26
Bhopal	28	15	Panaji	34	23
Jaipur	27	16	Patna	28	17
Amritsar	22	09	Lucknow	27	13
Chennai	31	26	Port Blair	29	27
Kolkata	27	21	Imphal	24	12
Srinagar	11	-01	Chandigarh	24	12

'Flood jihad' accused pvt univ chancellor arrested

Over alleged facilitation of unfair means during CBSE exams in Assam

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

MAHBUBUL Hoque, Chancellor of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM), was arrested by the Assam police from his Guwahati residence on Saturday morning. The arrest was linked to alleged facilitation of unfair means during CBSE exams.

Following his arrest, Hoque told reporters that he was "summoned" by the police "for not allowing students to resort to cheating". "I haven't received the FIR copy. I don't know anything more," he said.

Taking to X on Friday evening, Assam's education minister Ranoj Pegu said "shocking" allegations of unethical practices in education have surfaced. "Students were reportedly assured assistance in the 30-mark MCQ section of their CBSE Class 12 exams at Central Public School, Patharkandi which is owned by USTM group. Many were strategically placed there to gain an unfair advantage in exams," Pegu alleged in his post.

"When external invigilators refused to comply, chaos ensued – teachers were locked inside, prompting police intervention," he further stated.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said he had been keeping an eye on the racket for a long time. "Ahead of examinations, centres of students were changed to certain schools. By promising 30 extra marks in CBSE exams, 247 students of Goalpara, Nagaon and Kamrup districts were taken to Patharkandi. When the students did not get the facility (what was allegedly promised), they created ruckus, bringing the racket to light," he said.

"I said it before that this man (Hoque) is a big fraud. His history is all about fraud. He was trying to mislead people by taking along a section of intellectuals of Assam. We will make efforts to ensure that education is not converted to a market in Assam," Sarma added.

Over the past one year, Hoque faced a series of attacks from the Assam CM. It all began with Sarma accusing USTM, located on the outskirts of Guwahati, of engaging in a "flood jihad".

Last year, he attacked the private university owned by Hoque, alleging that as it had flattened hills to build new structures, water of Meghalaya made its way into Guwahati, causing waterlogging.

Then, a few days ago, Sarma accused it of issuing fake degrees, prompting the Meghalaya government to issue a counter. "USTM is a state university... mandated by the Assembly of Meghalaya. Degrees are recognised by the UGC," Meghalaya chief secretary said countering Sarma's claim.

5 tourists from Pune drowned at Sindhudurg

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mumbai

TWO tourists lost their lives, while as many were rescued and one sustained injuries when swimming in the sea at Tarkarli beach in Sindhudurg district on Saturday.

According to an official from the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC), the incident occurred at the famous Tarkarli Beach in Malvan at around 11.30 am, where a group of five tourists from Pune went swimming in the deep sea.

He said that the three men started drowning after they ventured too far from the shore. Of the five, while two drowned, the local fishermen managed to rescue three, of which one sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

The official said the deceased were identified as 22-year-old Shubham Sushil Sonawane, and 21-year-old Rohit Balasaheb Koli. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem. Twenty-three-year-old Omkar Bhosale, who survived with injuries, was rushed to the civil hospital for treatment. Later, he was shifted to a private hospital for further treatment.

As per attending doctor, Bhosale's oxygen level has dipped, and his condition remains critical as he is not yet out of danger.

After Guv's call, people surrender illegally-held weapons in Manipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

PEOPLE in ethnic violence-hit Manipur have begun surrendering illegally-held weapons following a call from Governor **Ajay Kumar Bhalla**. A defence ministry statement said 16 weapons, along with ammunition, were surrendered in Churachandpur on Saturday.

The weapons included one M-16 rifle, one 7.62 mm SLR, two AK rifles, three INSAS rifles, two M-79 40 mm under barrel grenade launchers, one 9mm carbine machine gun, one 51 mm mortar, three .303 rifles, two single barrel rifles, 64 gelatine sticks, ten rounds of 60 mm "Pumpi" (improvised mortar) ammunition, 17 rounds of AK ammunition, 40 rounds of 5.56 mm rifle ammunition and three rounds of 9 mm calibre ammunition. Earlier, several arms and ammunition were surrendered in Kakching and Kangpokpi districts.

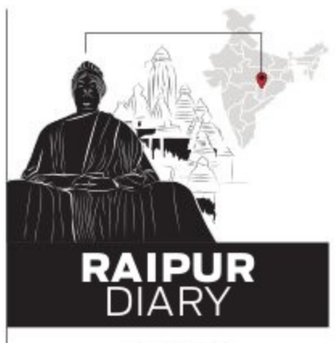
The governor had on Thursday appealed to people from all communities to surrender the weapons looted from police armouries and other illegally-held arms within seven days or face "strict action".

"Post this appeal, Assam Rifles along with police, CRPF, state intelligence agencies and state administration engaged with local Zomi and Kuki community leaders, addressed their security concerns, provided assurances of safety, and emphasised the positive impact of the region's de-weaponisation," the ministry stated.

The ministry asserted that the engagement proved fruitful as community leaders volunteered to surrender a huge quantity of arms and ammunition as a stepping stone in the peace process which has been the Central's stance.

It also said an effort was planned by the joint forces to motivate people to surrender illegally-stashed weapons and work toward for overall development of the region.

In his appeal, Bhalla stated, "I sincerely request the people of all communities, particularly the youth in the valley and the hills, to voluntarily come forward and surrender looted and illegally-held weapons..."



EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

Shops, cafes now to remain open 24x7

The Chhattisgarh government has implemented the New Shops and Establishments Act to boost trade and create new employment opportunities. The decision is expected to boost growth of business owners and strengthen the state's economy as now shops are allowed to open round the clock, seven days a week. The government also ensured that employees' rights are safeguarded with mandatory weekly leaves and they are not made to work for more than eight hours a day, following the labour welfare schemes. The decision will strengthen ease of doing business, extending the advantage to small traders with greater flexibility.

Raipur's Innov8 gets Centre's recognition

Expedient initiatives like Innov8, Aarambh, BPO and incubation centres, designed to revolutionise the capital's startup ecosystem and significantly boost employment opportunities with co-working co-learning and co-skilling activities, have received appreciation from the Central government. A proposal has now been submitted to the Centre as per the latter's directive to create the state's first youth hostel that will benefit over 1,000 individuals. Innov8 is actively enhancing youth skills by offering training in digital media, social media, video recording, photography, videography, and design to enter the digital world.

Black-fungus-induced defect rehabilitated

In a ground-breaking achievement, a serious defect caused by a rare black fungus (mucormycosis) infection has been successfully treated on the facial part (maxillofacial-oro-orbital) and rehabilitated using a dental implant by Dr Neeraj Chandrakar, a Raipur-based prosthodontist. The success emerges as a beacon of hope for patients suffering from such debilitating conditions. The patient under treatment, who has undergone over a year of follow-up, has shown outstanding functional and aesthetic recovery, reinforcing the effectiveness of this method.

Centre-farmers talks remain inconclusive, next round on March 19

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE second round of talks between the farmers' leaders and the Centre's delegation led by three union ministers remained inconclusive on Saturday. The talks were held to discuss the formers' demands, including a legal guarantee of MSP for crops. It was decided at the meeting that the next round of talks will be held on March 19.

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi held parleys with the with protesting farmers of Kisan Mazdoor Morcha and Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and 28 representatives of the two forums at Mahatama Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration here. Also the meeting was attended by Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian and Food and Supplies Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak.

After the three-hour meeting, Chouhan said, "The talks were held in a very positive atmosphere and now the next round of talks will be held on March 19 at Chandigarh only. We put forth the priorities of the Modi government which is about farmers' welfare. We heard what farmer leaders had to say." Punjab Finance Minister Cheema said discussions were held on the quantity of crops purchased at MSP, but a difference of opinion arose.

"The government and farmers deliberated on MSP and the talks took place in a positive atmosphere. The farmers remained firm on their demand for legally guaranteed MSP on 23 crops and gave data to the government," he said, adding that the Central ministers urged Jagjit Singh Dallewal to end his fast, but he refused.

Chouhan said the Centre is committed to farmers welfare and that the government has been making regular policy interventions to address their issues. "We will share necessary data and evidence to justify our demands," said SKM spokesperson Abhimanyu Kohar.

Spurious drugs worth ₹6.6 cr seized in Kolkata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

THE Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), in a joint operation with the Drugs Control Directorate, West Bengal, seized 'spurious' drugs worth ₹6.6 crore during a raid at a wholesale firm in the Kolkata and arrested the company's owner in connection with the illicit trade.

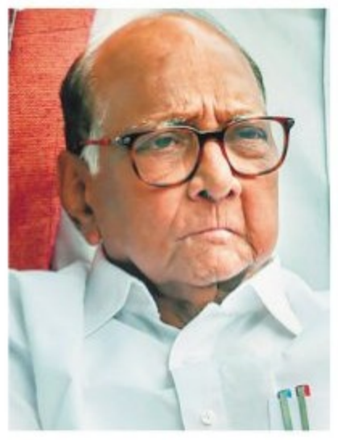
"The drugs, labelled as being manufactured in various countries, including Ireland, Turkey, Bangladesh and the US were found without any supporting documents to prove legitimate import into India," a health ministry statement said, adding that the investigating team also found packing materials, further raising concerns over the authenticity of the seized products.

CDSCO's east zone arrested the proprietor of the wholesale firm, who has been sent to 14-day judicial custody by court.

The action comes after Union health minister JP Nadda in August 2024 announced that the CDSCO, in collaboration with state drug controllers, had undertaken over 300 enforcement actions after carrying out inspections of 400 drug manufacturing facilities.

PM-Pawar bonhomie in Delhi sparks Maha realignment buzz

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai



THE bonhomie between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar at a Marathi literary event in Delhi has sparked speculations about a new political realignment in Maharashtra and at the Centre.

Sharing the stage at the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan, Modi ensured Pawar joined him in lighting the lamp. Modi was also seen pulling a chair for Pawar and later he served him a glass of water. The visuals of their bonhomie have gone viral on social media.

Highly placed sources said the two leaders share good relations since the days of the UPA government when Modi was the Gujarat CM and Pawar the agriculture minister at the Centre. "PM Modi is very keen to have a veteran politician like Pawar at his side when his government is dependent on alliance partners for the majority. Pawar-led NCP (SP) has eight Lok Sabha MPs. If Pawar supports the BJP, then Modi will get a major cushion in Delhi. His over dependency over Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu will be reduced," a source said.

"Therefore, conscious efforts have been made from the BJP side either to get NCP (SP) into the NDA government or ensure that Sharad Pawar retires honourably and the command of his party handed over to his nephew and deputy CM Ajit Pawar and MP Supriya Sule inducted as a minister at the Centre," he added.

A senior NCP (SP) leader said, "Sharad Pawar has not given the green signal yet to hand over his party command to Ajit. But his bonhomie with Modi in Delhi has raised new hopes for his nephew and the BJP."

A former NCP minister said, "It is difficult to gauge what Sharad Pawar is thinking and on which plan he is working. Pawar shows something but when he comes to action, he does quite differently. Therefore, it is too early to say what will happen." Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, referring to Modi's remark during elections, asked, "How did Modi sit alongside 'Bhatakati Aatma' (wandering soul)?"

Organisers of Rajkot mass marriage go missing

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @Ahmedabad

Families duped, a bolt from the blue

Families, who had paid amounts ranging from ₹15,000 to ₹40,000, arrived at the venue near Madhapar only to find no arrangements in place. Panic spread as attendees from Rajkot and nearby districts realized they had been deceived, leaving the brides in tears as they prepared to return. With distress mounting, the police were alerted and they swiftly reached the spot, launching efforts to ensure the halted marriages could proceed.

IN a shocking incident, a mass marriage for 28 girls of all castes, to be arranged by the Rishivanshi Samaj in Rajkot, turned chaotic after the organisers vanished without a trace. Families, who had paid amounts ranging from ₹15,000 to ₹40,000, arrived at the venue near Madhapar only to find no arrangements in place.

Panic spread as attendees from Rajkot and nearby districts realised they had been deceived, leaving the brides in tears as they prepared to return. With distress mounting, the police were alerted and they reached the spot, launching efforts to ensure the halted marriages could proceed. "This should never happen in the name of mass marriage," said Vitthalbhai, who arrived from Rajkot for his son's wedding. "The organisers took ₹40,000 from us and disappeared, leaving the people stranded" he said, demanding strict action.

"The organisers took ₹15,000 from both sides, promising a grand wedding with dowry," said Shilpaben Bagtharia, who attended her niece's wedding. "They told us everything would be ready by 6 am, but when we arrived, there were no arrangements, no organisers. Even the 'pandits' had left," she added, describing the disappointment.

Amid rising chaos, a police team led by Rajkot ACP Radhika Bharai rushed to the scene to take control of the situation. By then, some grooms had already left in frustration, adding to the distress. After assessing the circumstances, the police took matters into their own hands, to ensure the marriages solmenised.

They contacted the grooms who had departed, urging them to return as the wedding ceremonies got underway. "With the organisers disappearing, the police stepped in to take responsibility for the weddings," said ACP Bharai, highlighting authorities' swift response.

Emphasising accountability, she added, "A case will be registered against the organisers," ensuring legal action follows the chaos they left behind. Lending a helping hand, a local non-profit organisation of the city made arrangements for water and lunch for the affected families, who had been at the wedding venue since 5 am.

Police have registered a case against six people in connection with a group wedding scam, arresting three, while launching a search for the others, including the main organiser. ACP Bharai revealed that after promising to host the event, the organisers switched off their phones and disappeared. The case, filed at Pradyumannagar police station, includes charges of cheating and criminal conspiracy. Among those booked is Chandresh Chhatrala, the main organiser. The police has intensified efforts to track down the culprits.

Oppn up in arms as minister headed 'non-existent' Punjab dept for 2 yrs

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE Punjab government's Department of Administrative Reforms, which existed only on paper without any officers or staff, was being headed by cabinet minister **Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal** for the past 21 months. Opposition parties have criticised the AAP-led government, questioning its commitment to governance.

Responding to the controversy, Dhaliwal, who now retains only the NRI Affairs portfolio, said, "The Chief Minister can answer that better. I am a soldier of the party and have carried out every duty assigned to me."

A gazette notification dated February 21 stated: "In partial modification of Punjab government notification dated September 23, 2024, regarding allocation of portfolios amongst the ministers, the Department of Administrative Reforms earlier allotted to Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Cabinet minister, is not in existence as on date....With effect from February 7, 2025, Dhaliwal will hold the charge of NRI Affairs Minister."

Sources within the government revealed that the Administrative Reforms Department had been established years ago but had become defunct over time, though it remained on paper. One official said, "There have been no meetings or any programmes related to the department."

Sources disclosed that Dhaliwal had raised concerns about the lack of clarity regarding the department's existence.

Opposition parties took a dig at the AAP government over the issue. Punjab Congress chief and Ludhiana MP Amrinder Singh Raja Warring wrote in a post: "What a 'Badlaav'!"

SAD leader and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal also criticised the government, saying, "Governance @AAPPunjab style. Allocate non-existent departments to ministers who themselves are ignorant of the portfolios they hold. All this is happening because ministers have no role in governance as the government is being run with remote control from Delhi."

Punjab BJP general secretary Subhash Sharma said, "It shows the government's mental bankruptcy that a department, which is not in existence, has been allocated. Neither those who allotted it, nor those who had been allotted the department, were aware that it did not exist."

$5,23,000
worth of lottery tickets brough by thieves in France using a stolen bank card

GLOBAL WEATHER

City	Max	Min		City	Max	Min	
Beijing	-1	-12	SNY	Los Angeles	18	9	SNY
Colombo	34	23	SNY	Melbourne	26	18	SNY
Dhaka	27	16	SNY	Moscow	-1	-4	LC
Dubai	25	19	SNY	New York	1	-1	LC
Houston	28	21	SNY	Singapore	31	25	SNY
Istanbul	7	4	LR	Toronto	-3	-5	LS
London	7	2	LR	Washington	2	1	LS

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Hamas frees 6 more Israeli hostages

Two of them held for about a decade after visiting Gaza individually

People cheer as a military helicopter carrying newly released Israeli hostage Tal Shoham arrives in Petah Tikva in central Israel on Saturday | AFP

NUSEIRAT

PALESTINIAN militants freed six Israeli hostages on Saturday, with hundreds of Palestinian prisoners expected to be released in exchange under a fragile Gaza truce that is nearing the end of its first phase.

The release of the last group of living hostages under the truce's first phase caps an emotional two days in Israel, where the remains of another hostage, Shiri Bibas, have been identified after the initial handover of a different body. Bibas and her two young sons, among dozens taken captive during Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel that triggered more than 15 months of war in the Gaza Strip, had become symbols of the ordeal suffered by the Israeli hostages.

At a ceremony in Nuseirat, central Gaza, masked Hamas militants brought onto a stage Eliya Cohen, 27, Omer Shem Tov, 22, and Israeli-Argentine Omer Wenkert, 23. An AFP correspondent said they waved while holding release certificates before their handover to the Red Cross and return to Israeli soil. At a similar ceremony in Rafah, southern Gaza, militants handed over Tal Shoham, 40, and Avera Mengistu, 38, who both appeared dazed. Shoham was made to address the gathering, flanked by masked gunmen dressed all in black. In the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, hundreds who gathered at a site known as "Hostages Square" applauded and weeped as they watched a live broadcast of the releases. A sixth hostage, Hisham al-Sayed, 37, was later released and taken back to Israeli territory, the military said.

Sayed, a Bedouin Muslim, and Mengistu, an Ethiopian Jew, had been held in Gaza for about a decade after they entered the territory individually. "Our family has endured 10 years and five months of unimaginable suffering," Mengistu's family said in a statement.

Sayed's family called it "a long-awaited moment" and said they were "moved". Relatives of Shoham wept and embraced as they watched his handover, video released by Israel's government showed. *AFP*

After mix-up, Bibas' body arrives in Israel

A body released by Palestinian militants overnight was confirmed to be Shiri Bibas, the Israeli mother whose two young sons also died in captivity, her family said. Hamas had said Bibas' remains were returned to Israel with those of her sons and another hostage Thursday. Testing confirmed the identities of the three others but found the remains said to be Shiri Bibas were instead an unidentified Palestinian woman. With tensions rising, Palestinian militants late Friday said they turned over the correct set of remains to the Red Cross, which sent them to Israel for testing. The identification was confirmed early Saturday

TOLL SO FAR 49,381 WAR WATCH ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 505

Don sacks top US general in major Pentagon shake-up

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump fired top US military officer General Charles "CQ" Brown on Friday, part of a major shake-up of the armed forces' leadership.

Trump offered no explanation for Brown's dismissal less than two years into his four-year term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which followed sweeping layoffs of federal workers and moves to dismantle government institutions just a month into the president's second term.

Brown had been nominated to the top military role by Democratic president Joe Biden and became only the second Black person to hold the position.

Following Trump's announcement on Brown, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said he was seeking a replacement for Admiral Lisa Franchetti, the first woman to serve as the top US Navy officer.

General Charles CQ Brown

Trump thanked Brown for "his over 40 years of service to our country" in a post on his Truth Social platform, describing him as "a fine gentleman and an outstanding leader."

Brown has commanded a fighter squadron and two fighter wings, as well as US air forces under the Central Command and Indo-Pacific Command. He had served as Joint Chiefs chairman since October 2023.

Following the 2020 murder of a Black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer in Minnesota, Brown -- an experienced fighter pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours, 130 of them in combat -- recorded an emotional video about his personal experiences, including with discrimination in the US military.

"I'm thinking about my Air Force career, where I was often the only African American in my squadron or as a senior officer, the only African American in the room," Brown said.

"I'm thinking about the pressure I felt to perform error-free, especially for supervisors I perceive had expected less from me as an African American."

Hegseth had advocated for Brown's firing in a November podcast appearance, saying any top officers "involved in any of the DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) woke shit has got to go," but told journalists last month that he was "looking forward to working" with the general. Trump said he was nominating Air Force Lieutenant General Dan Caine to replace Brown. *AFP*

WESTERN RAILWAY
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/11/2025 Date 13.02.2025

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
85	N2 Board to M/s Faiveley make Part No.1/600008A	22 Nos	10-Mar-25
86	CARBON BRUSH FOR HITACHI TYPE TRACTION MOTOR	15849 Nos	12-Mar-25
87	Blower for transformer oil cooler	80 Set	12-Mar-25
88	PINION SHAFT 21 TEETH FOR WAG-9HC	207 Nos	13-Mar-25
89	POWER CABLE, SIZE 2 CORE X 25 SQ.MM	184.5 KM	14-Mar-25
90	10125 mm curved switches with ZU-1-60/60E1A1 Thick Web Tongue rail	720 Set	18-Mar-25
91	SUPPORT CLAMPFOR EP(LINE) CONTACTOR	2571 Nos	19-Mar-25
92	Co-Co bogie frame	16 Set	21-Mar-25

CORRIGENDUM
Please read the due date as "20.02.2025" for the tender notice no. S-04-2024 dated:-15.01.2025 at Sr. No. 28

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** and **www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in**
1112 **For Principal Chief Materials Manager**
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Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is the absolute owner of the Flat/Apartment bearing No.7, Municipal No.47/7 (Old No.506) PID No.6-5-47/7 on the Second Floor of the apartment building called Raj Apartments having a super built up area of 945 square feet with 10% of undivided share right, title and interest in the land equivalent to 174 sq ft constructed out of property bearing site No.47 & 47/1, at 4th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore within the limits of BBMP purchased under the sale deed dated 12/12/2005. However the following title deeds pertaining to the property has been lost from him.

1. Sale Deed dated 18/08/1998 executed by Smt.P.Premavathi and Smt.S.Padmavathi rep by their GPA holder Sri.G.P.Prabhu in favour of Sri. Ganapathi Subramanyam and Smt.Latha Saraswathi which has been registered as document No.1289/1998-99.
2. Sale Deed dated 28/08/2002 executed by Sri.Ganapathi Subramanyam and Smt.Latha Saraswathi in favour of Sri.Harish Babu K Sodha and Smt. Nirmala H Sodha rep by their GPA holder Sri.Manoj Dhanesha document No.2161/2002-03
3. GPA dated 11/04/2005 executed Sri.Harish Babu K Sodha and Smt. Nirmala H Sodha in favour of Sri.Manoj Dhanesha.

Any person/s, have found the same may return it to the undersigned or any objections relating to the above may contact the below within SEVEN DAYS from the date of this notice.

C.P. SAJEEV AND JAISRI S. KRISHNAN
ADVOCATES
No. 34 & 35, 1st Floor, 8th Main, 13th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003
Mob.: 9845200930, & 9880748335

JM FINANCIAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate identify Number: U67190MH2007PLC74287
Registered Office: 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025
Contact Person: 1. Raghavendra Gowda- 9686463502, 2. Vishal Ketele- 9584966653, 3. Sinduja Pillai- 022 - 6224 1676
E-Auction Sale Notice- Fresh Sale

That Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd have assigned a pool of Loan (including below mentioned Loans) together with underlying security interest created thereof along with all the rights, title and interest thereon under Section 5 (1) (b) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") vide an assignment agreement dated March 29, 2023 ("the Assignment Agreement") in favour of JMFARC (JM) (herein referred as Assignee) acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFARC – Aranya – Trust. It is to notify that PCHFL is authorized and appointed to act as Service provider / Collection agent to facilitate all operational and procedures processes vide Assignment / Service Agreement.

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor under the **SARFAESI Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the possession, on **'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'**, Particulars of which are given below:

Loan Code/ Branch/ Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address _final	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (19-02-2025)
Loan Code No.: 15400001263, Kolar (Branch), Sachindra R (Borrower), Raju M (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 16-06-2021, Rs. 27,84,238/-, (Rs. Twenty Seven Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Eight Only)	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent:- Flat No T15 C Block 3rd Floor S2 Homes The Watergorve Sy No 136/1 136/3 & 136/4 Kammasandra Village Attibele H Bangalore Karnataka IN 562106 Boundaries As:- North: PP South: PP East: PP West: Road	Rs. 52,00,000/-, (Rs. Fifty Two Lakh Only)	Rs. 5,20,000/-, (Rs. Five Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs. 45,26,093/-, (Rs. Forty Five Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Ninety Three Only)

DATE OF E-AUCTION: 27-03-2025, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH). LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 26-03-2025, BEFORE 4.00 P.M.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.jmfinancialarc.com/Home/Assetsforsale OR https://www.bankauctions.in.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR
The above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby noticed to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) notice in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.

Date: February 23, 2025, Place: Bengaluru Sd/- (Authorised Officer) (Aranya - Trust)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 30/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:22–02–2025

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 8443 ಠೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ, ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಥವಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ **(Standard Tender Document KW - 4 ರಂತೆ)** ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲಗತ್ತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 3ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅರ್ಹತೆಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 434.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 590.00 **(Rs. 468.51 Lakhs Amount put to tender)** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ 2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 19943 ಮತ್ತು 19936ಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.03.2025ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/71/2025
Dated : 17-02-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Appointment of Project supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for Providing Project Supervision Services at various Construction sites / Sections in the jurisdiction of various Deputy Chief Enigneers in Bengaluru Cantonment and Mysuru area. **(Tender Ref. No: PSSA-BNC-MYS)**	Rs. 27,63,34,528/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 31-03-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/802/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
For and on behalf of President of Republic of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction-II) North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tender for the following works upto 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **1. Name of work** :Tender No. EL-C-TRD-JP-T07-24-25 Design, Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of (2x25 KV) AC OHE & associated modification works an New / modification work in existing 1x25 kV PSI in connection of JP - SWM doubling work of Jaipur division of NWR. **2. Approximate cost of the Work** : Rs.1141134615.00 **3. Earnest Money to be deposited** : Rs. 5855700.00 **4. Date & Time of closing E- Tender** - 17.03.25 Up to 15.00 Hrs. **Date & Time of opening E- Tender** - 17.03.25 at 15.30 Hrs. **5. The details of above E-Tender are available on Website** : www.ireps.gov.in
222-DR/25
Please join us on /NWRailways /NWRailways_

PUBLIC NOTICE
(LOSS OF SALE DEED)

The General Public hereby notice that my client **Mrs. Roseline Leonard** W/o Mr.Leonard Louis, residing at No.172, LRDE Layout West Avenue Road, Near Café Coffee Day, Karthiknagar, Bangalore North, Our client is the absolute owner of the site bearing No.172, formed in Sy.No.89/1, 89/2, 90/1-A, 90/1-B, 90/1-C, 90/2, 90/3, 90/4, 90/5, 92, 100/1, 100/2, 100/3, 100/4, 100/5, and 100/6, Situated at Karthik Nagar, Doddanekundi village, Krishnarajapuram, Hobli, Bangalore East (South)Taluk, formed by LRDE Employees Housing Co-operative Society ltd and layout plan approved by BDA, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40feet and North to South: 28+14/2feet in all measuring 840square feet, our client has informed that while travelling from Majestic Bus Stop to K.R.Puram, she has lost the Original preceding Sale deed bearing document no.946/2002-03, of Book No.I, Volume No.2450, registered in the office of Sub-registrar Krishnarajapura, Bangalore, after her best effort to search she could not trace out the same, in this regard-our client has lodged a complaint intimating the loss of said original sale deed vide Lost Report No.1491022/2025 dated 22.02.2025 to Crime Branch, Bengaluru City Police and it is requested to the General Public that if it is found they may be handed over to the address given below, it is made clear that if the above mentioned original sale deed is used for any wrongful and illegal purpose, my client would not be liable for the same.

Bengaluru Dated: 22.02.2025
S A Law Associates
No.29/1, Old No.54, G.Floor, Nanjappa Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that on behalf of my client, that my client is intended to purchase schedule property from the present owners **1) Sri. B.Krishnappa,** S/o. Late. Karigowda, R/at. No. 1662/A, AVVA, 16th 'A' Main, 5th Cross, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase Bangalore- 560078, **2) Sri. G.B. Mohan Kumar** S/o. lat.e B. Boraiah, R/at. No. 1773/9, 5th Main, 9th Main, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, RPC layout, Bangalore- 560041, **3) Smt. Nagarathna** W/o. H.V. Puttaswamy, R/at Nanjegowdanahdoddi Village, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka, the present owners represent the schedule property is free from all encumbrance, charged, lien, litigation or any third-party rights/claims of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that if any person or persons, Firm or Institution has any claims or asserts any right, title or interest in the schedule Property or having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien, interest etc. in respect of the above said Property should write to the undersigned **within 15 days** from the date of this publication.

If no valid objection is received as aforesaid by the undersigned within time stipulated above, my clients shall proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the said owners, no one else have any manner of claim over the Schedule properties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	Owner/Khathedra	Survey Number	Village	Extent
1.	Sri.B.Krishnappa	Sy. No. 119	Chikkathathamangala	4 Acre 38 Guntas
2.	Sri. B.Krishnappa	Sy. No. 137	Chikkathathamangala	2 Acre 30 Guntas
3.	Smt. Nagarathna	Sy. No. 116 (old Sy. No. 38, Block 2)	Chikkathathamangala	2 Acre 30 Guntas
4.	Smt. Nagarathna	Sy. No.115 (old Sy. No. 38, Block 2)	Chikkathathamangala	2 Acre 30 guntas
5.	Sri. G.B. Mohan Kumar	Sy. No. 163	Mandibele	4 Acre 30 Guntas
6.	Sri.B.Krishnappa	Sy.No.164	Mandibele	3 Acre 19 Guntas
7.	Sri. G.B. Mohan Kumar	Sy.No. 73	Gaddadanagenahalli	3 Acre

All the survey number/properties are Situated at Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

SRIKANTHAM .V.R, Advocate
No. 310, 60 feet Road, Talakaveri Layout, Sahakar Nagar Post, Bangalore- 560 092. Phone No. 9845104859/984453966

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Pooja D.N,** D/o. Mr. D.P. Nagesh, R/at Dhanalakshmi Nilaya, Church Street, Kanakapura – 562 117 intends to buy the property mentioned in the schedule here below from its owner Mrs. Padmaja K. L, W/o. Late Chandrashekar M, residing at Near Coconut Garden, Arekere, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore – 560 076 and if anyone has got any claim or right over the same may be pleased to intimate me **within in 7 days** of this public notice failing which my client will proceed to buy the same and if any one comes with a claim after the execution of sale deed my client will not be responsible for the same.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing Site No.523/2, (Old) Khatha No.639/5 of Arakere Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Postal Address: No.523/2, 1st Main (Near Coconut Garden - Adi Bhyrava Layout), Arekere Village, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru – 560 076, presently within the limits of BBMP and assigned new E-Khata EPID No.8522312772, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 40 feet, in total measuring 2000 Sq. Feet and bounded on: **East by:** Property No.2A, **West by:** Property No.1, **North by :** Road, **South by:** Private Property.

Lekharaj T B.A.L., LLB
Mariappa M S & Associates, ADVOCATE
No. 7, 3rd Floor, Kasturi Apartment, 35/11, Langford Road Cross, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru – 560 025. Mob: 9449787984

HDFC BANK
We understand your world
एच डी एफ सी बैंक
HDFC Bank Ltd,. Ground Floor, Rashtrothana Bhavan, Muncipal No. 3/1, Ward No 77, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore - 560001, Ph: 080-68906205
ANNEXURE—VI **(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**

Possession Notice
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **03-04-2024** calling upon the borrowers **-1) Mrs. R. SARVAMANGALA, 2) MR. Ravi S,** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.44,10,840/-** (Rupees Fourty Four Lakhs Ten Thousand Eight Hundred and Fourty only) along with interest , penal interest, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrowers, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section 4 of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **19th Day of February, 2025.**

The borrower, in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the HDFC Bank Ltd, for an amount of **Rs.44,10,840/-** (Rupees Fourty Four Lakhs Ten Thousand Eight Hundred and Fourty only) along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc., from 28-10-2024.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Schedule: Description of the Secured Assets

Item No1 : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property Bearing Northern portion of property bearing old no31, 31-B , new No 36 in the ground floor and No 39 in the first floor, situated at Old Madras Road, Now known as Swami Vivekananda Road, Halasuru Civil Station, Bangalore – 560 008 (ward No 81- PID No 81-53-36 and 81-53-39), Measuring an extent of 625 Sq. Ft along with constructed portion thereon having a plinth area of 600 Sq. Ft in the ground floor and 600 Sq. ft in the first floor including staircase portion leading to the first floor after the premises bearing No 38 with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East BY : Property belongs to Prasad Reddy, West BY : Private Property, North BY :Private Property, South BY : Old Madras Road

Date: 19.02.2025
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer, For HDFC BANK Ltd.,

Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

JM FINANCIAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate identify Number: U67190MH2007PLC74287
Registered Office: 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025
Contact Person: 1. Raghavendra Gowda- 9686463502, 2. Vishal Ketele- 9584966653, 3. Sinduja Pillai- 022- 6224 1676
E-Auction Sale Notice- Subsequent Sale

That Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd have assigned a pool of Loan (including below mentioned Loans) together with underlying security interest created thereof along with all the rights, title and interest thereon under Section 5 (1) (b) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") vide an assignment agreement dated March 29, 2023 ("the Assignment Agreement") in favour of JMFARC (JM) (herein referred as Assignee) acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFARC – Aranya – Trust. It is to notify that PCHFL is authorized and appointed to act as Service provider / Collection agent to facilitate all operational and procedures processes vide Assignment / Service Agreement.

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor under the **SARFAESI Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the possession, on **'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'**, Particulars of which are given below:

Loan Code/ Branch/ Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address _final	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (19-02-2025)
Loan Code No.: 11800001889, Hosur (Branch), Jerald William P (Borrower), Elizabeth P (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 30-06-2021, Rs. 17,07,058/-, (Rs. Seventeen Lakh Seven Thousand Fifty Eight Only)	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent:- Site No. 31, S.no. 14/1 Musandra Village, Kasaba Hobli Dodballapura Bangalore Rural Karnataka IN 561203 Boundaries As:- North: Road South: Pvt PropertyEast: Site No: 32 West: Site No: 30	Rs. 12,03,840/-, (Rs. Twelve Lakh Three Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Only)	Rs. 1,20,384/-, (Rs. One Lakh Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Four Only)	Rs. 30,23,259/-, (Rs. Thirty Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Nine Only)

DATE OF E-AUCTION: 12-03-2025, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH). LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 11-03-2025, BEFORE 4.00 P.M.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.jmfinancialarc.com/Home/Assetsforsale OR https://www.bankauctions.in.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR
The above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby noticed to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) notice in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.

Date: February 23, 2025, Place: Bengaluru Sd/- (Authorised Officer), (Aranya - Trust)

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES
HDB Financial Services Ltd.
Registered Office:- Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahamedabad-09.
Regional Office: Ground Floor, Zenith House, Opposite Race Course, Mahalakshmi, Mumbai- 34. Tel:022-39586300, Fax:022-39586666. Branch Office: No.195/38, 1st floor HDFC Building 10th Cross Road, Wilson Garden Bangalore-27. web: www.hdbfs.com, Email ID: compliance@hdfs.com

AUCTION SALE NOTICE CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
(To the Borrower /Co-Applicant / Public in General) (Under Rule 8(6) R/w with Rule 9 (1) of SARFAESI Act, 2002)

The undersigned Authorized Officer of **HDB Financial Services Ltd.,** has taken over Possession of the following property, under Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, for the below mentioned loan account with a right to sell the same on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".**

Name and Address of the Applicant & Co-Applicant: 1. M Mohan (Deceased Through Legal Heirs) (A) Lokanath M (Legal Heirs) No 31 15t Cross 1st Main Vinayaka Nagar , Near Bmtc Wilson Garden Bangalore- 560030 Karnataka , (B) R Jayamma (Legal Heirs) , No 31 1st Cross Ist Main Vinayaka Nagar, Near Bmtc Wilson Garden Bangalore- 560030 Karnataka, **2. Lokanath M,** No 31 15t Cross Ist Main Vinayaka Nagar, Near Bmtc Wilson Garden Bangalore- 560030 Karnataka, **3. Rjayamma,** No 31 Ist Cross 1st Main Vinayaka Nagar, Near Bmtc Wilson Garden Bangalore- 560030 Karnataka.
Account No. 4144390, Total Outstanding Amount: Rs.20,81,803.92/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred and Three and Paise Ninety Two only) **as on 21-02-2025, with further interest/ incidental expenses /costs till the date of full payment.**
Details of Encumbrances, if any, known to the Secured Creditor:- NIL
Details of Immovable Properties: All that piece and parcel of the propert bearing new Muncipal 31, old site No.14, having PID No.70- 69-31, situated at vinayaka nagar, jalakanteshwara Road, Bangalore. Measuring east to west 49.6+39/2 feet and north to south 36 feet, together with Building Standing thereon and bounded on: North-passage and private property , South - property No.15 , East-Remaining portion of the same property, West -1st main Road .

Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid Incremental Amount	Auction Date &Time	EMD Last Date & Time
Rs.1,69,76,586 /-	Rs.16,97,659/-	Rs.1,00,000/-	28-03-2025 at 11 AM to 12 Noon	27-03-2025 up to 06:00 p.m

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE:
1) The auction sale shall be "online e-auction" bidding through website **https://www.bankeauctions.com** Mobile APP on the dates as mentioned in the table above with Unlimited Extension of 5 Minutes. **2)** The interested bidders shall submit their EMD through **Web Portal: https://www.bankeauctions.com** (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with **https://www.bankeauctions.com**) through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable through Order/Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"HDB Financial Service Limited"** above.After Registration (One Time) by the bidder in the Web Portal, the intending bidder/ purchaser is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded in the Web Portal before the Last Date & Time of submission of the Bid Documents viz. i) Copy of the NEFT/RTGS Challan or Demand Draft; ii) Copy of PAN Card; iii) Proof of Identification/ Address Proof (KYC) viz. self-attested copy of Voter ID Card/ Driving License/ Passport etc.; without which the Bid is liable to be rejected. UPLOADING SCANNED COPY OF ANNEXURE-II & III (can be downloaded from the Web Portal: **https//www.bankeauctions.com**) AFTER DULY FILLED UP & SIGNING IS ALSO REQUIRED. The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting Bid Documents, Training/ Demonstration on Online Inter-se Bidding etc., may contact **M/s.C1 India Pvt Ltd, Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Gulf Petrochem building, Building No. 301, Gurgaon, Haryana. Pin: 122015, E-mail ID : support@bankeauctions.com, Support Helpline Numbers : 124-4302020/21/22/23, 7291981124 / 1125 / 1126, Sales Enquiries : sales@bankeauctions.com, 7291981129, 3)** The intending bidders should be present in person for the Auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. No Authorized person allowed. **4)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from the **Manager, M/s. HDB Financial Services Ltd. No.195/38, 1st Floor, HDFC Building 10th Cross Road, Wilson Garden Bangalore-27.** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the tender form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to the **Authorized Officer, HDB Financial Services Limited,** together with a Pay Order/Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favor of **"HDB Financial Service Limited" on or before 6pm on 27-03-2025** of Tender-cum-Auction sale hereby notified. **5)** For inspection of the Property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact: **M/s. HDB Financial Services Ltd. No.195/38, 1st floor HDFC Building 10th Cross Road, Wilson Garden Bangalore-27, The Manager -Mrs. Ragini. M K.- 9110609817 and Raghavendra Rao KR -9620764555. The Property/ies is sold on "As-is-where-is" and "As-is-what-is" condition basis. 6)** The sealed Tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders by **11am on the 28-03-2025** of Tender-cum-auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the same will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorized Officer may , at his sole discretion, conduct an Auction among the interested bidders who desire to Quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of **HDB Financial Services Limited. 7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on the same day or not later than next working day on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of Sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. At any cost it shall not be refunded. If the successful bidder, fail to make the payment of 25% of the entire bid amount as mentioned above, the next successful bidder will be considered and entitled to complete the sale. **8)** The sale certificate will be issued by the Authorized Officer in favor of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, Registration Fee etc., as applicable under law. **10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, Electricity Charges and other Dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government undertaking and Local bodies. **11)** The Authorized Officer has absolute right to accept or reject Tender or Bid any or all the offers and adjourn/postpone/cancel the Auction without assigning any reason thereof and also modify any terms and conditions of the sale without assigning any reason thereof and also to modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice.

Place: Bangalore, Date: 21-02-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, M/s. HDB Financial Services Limited

₹5,000 CR UAE-based shipping and logistics giant Sharaf Group on Saturday announced this investment in Kerala over the next five years.

Small reactors: Nu-clear favourites

Both the govt & public sector energy cos are focusing on developing small modular reactors

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

IN the FY2024-25 budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated ₹20,000 crore for research and development (R&D) in Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in India. The minister highlighted that achieving net-zero emissions requires a diverse energy mix, including nuclear power. As part of this strategy, the government aims to reach 100 GW of nuclear energy capacity by 2047 under the country's Nuclear Energy Mission.

The moot question is why is the government focusing on nuclear energy, and why is India actively seeking technology partners to develop SMRs?

WHAT IS A SMR?

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are compact, next-generation nuclear reactors designed to be safer, more efficient, and scalable than traditional nuclear power plants. As the name suggests, SMRs are smaller in both size and capacity, typically producing up to 300 megawatts (MW) of electricity, compared to the thousands of MW produced by conventional nuclear reactors.

Deploying SMRs across the country, especially in locations unsuitable for large nuclear plants, can produce a significant amount of low-carbon electricity. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels, SMRs can replace aging fossil fuel-based power plants. However, SMRs are not intended to replace conventional large nuclear power plants, which serve as base-load plants. That said, the technological and commercial aspects of SMRs are still in their early stages, even in developed nations.

WHY IS GOVT KEEN ON SMRS?

The government and public sector energy companies are focusing on developing SMRs as part of India's ambitious energy transition. With the goal of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel power capacity by 2030, nuclear power is seen as a crucial part of this plan.

Experts believe SMRs are particularly well-suited to India's energy needs. One key reason is that not every state in India can host large-scale nuclear power plants due to space and security requirements. In contrast, SMRs can be installed and operated without these constraints. Additionally, global companies are more willing to share technology related to SMRs, which could foster greater collaboration between Indian and international companies.

KEY CHALLENGES

SMRs come in a wide range of sizes, from under 30 MW to over 300 MW. As a result, many different SMR designs are being developed.

Experts believe having too many options can slow the growth of the industry. Too many designs could create regulatory challenges and make it harder to control costs. To move forward, the number of designs should be narrowed down to a few key ones. According to a Niti Aayog report, the technology behind SMRs needs to advance further before it can be widely adopted by utilities, investors, and governments.

The industry still lacks a fully developed facility for mass-producing SMR components, which would require significant investment.

Developers also face challenges raising the funds needed for technology development, licensing, and building prototype plants. Private investment in SMRs remains limited and does not meet the required level.

To overcome these challenges, the development of SMRs must focus on designing and creating standardized small reactors that can be manufactured repeatedly in a factory with high quality control. By leveraging modern tools and techniques from the Industry 4.0 paradigm, this approach will help improve efficiency. Over time, as production becomes more streamlined, the costs of manufacturing will decrease due to the learning curve and economies of scale.

As of January 30, 2025, India's nuclear power capacity is 8,180 MW. To boost this, the country is partnering with the private sector to develop more nuclear energy. This plan supports India's goal of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy by 2030 and sourcing 50% of its energy from renewable sources by the same year.

The focus of this partnership is on developing Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) and Bharat Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), as well as exploring new nuclear technologies.

In this effort, private companies will provide land, cooling water, and capital, while the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) will handle the design, quality checks, and operation of the plants.

Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) are 220 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), which will help expand India's nuclear energy capacity.

PRIVATE COS' INTEREST

Several big private companies are showing interest in India's nuclear power industry. For instance, NTPC, one of India's largest power companies, has been exploring the SMR space and is working with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre to develop local SMR technology. NTPC has also teamed up with NPCIL on nuclear projects.

Tata Power plans to enter the nuclear sector once the government updates regulations to allow public-private partnerships for building plants and small reactors.

As per the reports L&T and the Adani Group are also considering investments, as the government plans to attract $26 billion in the nuclear sector.

NEWSCOPE

MUSK SHAKING UP INDIA'S AUTO, BROADBAND MARKET

GURBIR SINGH

ELON Musk is back in India with Tesla and Starlink. Tesla's entry was shelved twice over the last 2-3 years. The messaging was: we are not interested in a fire-walled market. With the recent tariff talks between Donald Trump and Prime Minster Modi, news of hirings in India, and the first Tesla shipments coming in a few months, the buzz is back on the street.

Trump and Musk have been at pains to point out India has the highest tariffs in the world at 100%. The fact is it is even higher. The Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on fully built EVs priced above $40,000 is 70%. Add to that the Agri and Infra Cess of 40% and the effective import duty on Tesla cars is 110%.

Around mid-2023, the Union government set about making things easier for importing EVs with a view to embracing the green revolution. A new EV policy was cobbled to allow import of luxury electric cars with a low duty of 15%.

As is the wont in Indian policy-making it comes with heavy ifs and buts. The caveat in this case was to qualify for the lower import duty, the foreign company must set up local manufacturing with a turnover of at least ₹2,500 crore, and invest a minimum of $500 million. This queered the pitch for foreign auto makers, and from Elon Musk there was loud silence.

IS TESLA A THREAT?

All this is about to change now after the recent Trump-Modi meeting. The 2023 EV policy, along with the rules, is due to be notified and the government is signaling it will be watered down to allow for lower import duties. Tesla effectively will be allowed to come in, at first, with direct imports; and maybe later with some commitment to setting up assembly plants and an indigenization process through local manufacture of parts.

'Make in India' will have to go in the face of Trump's clarion call of 'Make in America'. In a recent joint interview along with Musk on Fox News' Sean Hannity show, the US President made it clear he didn't want manufacturing to leave American shores. Referring to Musk, Trump said: "Now, if he built the factory in India, that's okay, but that's unfair to us. It's very unfair."

As the protected auto market opens out, do homegrown carmakers like Tata Motors and M&M need to worry? Not from Tesla. Anand Mahindra played down the Tesla threat pointing out he and the Tatas are still around after the first wave of foreign players like Daewoo, Ford and General Motors have bitten the dust.

After all, Tesla's price-points are way beyond Indian affordability. Tesla's cheapest models – Model 3 and Model Y – will

MANDAR PARDIKAR

cost ₹35 lakh and ₹50 lakh, respectively. What the locals need to fear are BYD and other Chinese and Korean models who have far better engineering skills than their Indian counterparts, and are more affordable.

STARLINK COMING

While the market impact of Tesla is still being debated, Starlink -- Elon Musk's satellite-based broadband network -- is shaking up the communication market intensely. The Starlink proposal is on the table before the space regulator, the Indian National Space Promotion & Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and is likely to get an approval very soon.

There are other permissions to be got and there are security issues like setting up gateway and monitoring issues locally in India. However, given Elon Musk's current elevated status in the US administration, these are unlikely to pose a problem.

What is significant is the Union government had, in October last, decided in favour of Starlink's proposal to allot satellite spectrum via the 'administrative route' overruling pleas by Reliance and Airtel, India's major broadband players, to sell spectrum through auctions to the highest bidder.

Musk had then cited the practice endorsed by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), of sharing rather than auctioning spectrum since it is a natural resource. Union Communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia quickly agreed saying spectrum "will be allocated administratively in line with Indian laws"; and pricing would be worked out by the telecom watchdog.

Reliance, on the other hand, had submitted that foreign satellite operators had the advantage of bundling additional services like voice and data. Therefore, auction was one way of achieving a level playing field.

The fact is the Ambanis are the ones with the first-user advantage. They have 440 million telecom users, and 8 million wired broadband connections representing a 25% market share. By excluding foreign players like Starlink, Reliance and Airtel want to further consolidate their monopoly over digital communication.

By opening up space spectrum to include Starlink, as well as Amazon's Kuiper and Britain's OneWeb, the government will help break the duopoly of Reliance and Airtel and make broadband services more affordable. Satellite broadband services are moving fast. It's ability to reach remote areas will be a boon to integrating rural India with the internet highway.

It's a huge mass market which is estimated to grow to $2 billion by 2030. Starlink has international experience and the ability to provide high quality services to even conflict zones like Ukraine. If Starlink gets it right, there's good money to be made.

Godrej Ent pumps in ₹200 crore in Dahej

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Dahej

THE Process Equipment division of Godrej Enterprises Group has announced an additional investment of ₹200 crore to expand its advanced manufacturing facility in Dahej, Gujarat. This follows a previous infusion of ₹300 crore, reaffirming the company's commitment to strengthening domestic manufacturing and supporting India's clean energy transition.

As part of its Phase-III expansion, the Dahej facility's annual manufacturing capacity will increase to approximately 30,000 MT, with expanded production space, a specialised Dust-free Enclosure for exotic materials, dedicated bays for internals manufacturing, and extended manufacturing yards. This development enhances capabilities in producing high-end, critical process equipment for sectors such as hydrogen, nuclear, and geothermal energy, along with conventional industries like refineries and petrochemicals. Hussain Shariyarr, Executive Vice President & Business Head of the Process Equipment business at Godrej Enterprises Group, highlighted the global shift towards cleaner energy and the increasing demand for specialised process equipment. He emphasised that this strategic expansion will enhance the company's ability to produce advanced, large-scale equipment for clean energy applications, reinforcing India's role in the global energy transition while delivering world-class manufacturing solutions.

The expanded facility will include an Extended Fabrication Yard for large and complex process equipment, capable of handling components up to 16 meters in diameter and 140 meters in length. It will also feature a strategically placed 30m x 10m Advanced Heat Treatment Furnace designed to reduce carbon emissions.

EXPRESS READ

Vijay Mallya pursues annulment

LONDON: Embattled businessman Vijay Mallya has instructed his lawyers in the UK to pursue an annulment application against his bankruptcy order, with his legal team set to argue that FM Nirmala Sitharaman's statement in Parliament in December last year gives the order an 'unreal quality'. It comes after Justice Anthony Mann reserved judgment, to be handed down at a later date.

Sebi slaps ₹10 L fine on Axis Securities

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi has imposed a penalty of ₹10 lakh on Axis Securities for flouting stock brokers rules as well as other regulatory norms. The penalty has to be paid by the brokerage firm within 45 days, the regulator said in an order. The market regulator found that Axis Securities had inconsistencies in its enhanced supervision reporting to stock exchanges.

EV start-up River eyes exports to 11 countries

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU-based electric scooter start-up River, which is backed by marquee investors such as Yamaha Motor and Toyota Ventures, plans to export to about 11 countries soon. "We have an investor- Al Futtaim Group of Middle East Dubai. They are Toyota distributors in Dubai. We have an agreement with them to help us scale to around 11 countries globally because they already have local presence in those countries. We will export out of Bengaluru starting at the end of this year or early next year," Aravind Mani, co-founder and CEO of River, told this newspaper.

The company will start with Sri Lanka or Myanmar and then will scale to Southeast Asia, Europe. The start-up has an R&D centre in Bengaluru where it employs about 400 people. "We develop the entire vehicle from scratch, starting from designing the vehicle, making the battery technology, the battery management system, the vehicle control units. The cell is imported, but the battery pack is made by us. We don't make cells at scale in India," he said, adding in the next 2 to 3 years, India will start producing it at a large scale.

Founded in 2021 by Aravind Mani and Vipin George, the start-up last year raised $40 million (₹335 crore) in Series B round, led by Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd. River started selling its first product Indie, the SUV of scooters in October 2023. The first River store was opened in Bengaluru in January 2024. "We will close the year with maybe around 6000-7000 vehicles in FY25. Next year, we are targeting to sell around 30,000 to 40,000 vehicles," the co-founder added. By March 2025, it is planning to open 25 stores and by next March, it plans to expand to 100 stores.

India & UK sign agreement for AI in 4G, 5G; focus on Open RAN

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA and the UK have signed an MoU that focuses on Open RAN-related policy and technical matters, including 5G Open RAN and Artificial Intelligence in 4G/5G.

The agreement was signed between SONIC Labs and the Centre for Development of Telematics (CDOT).

The MoU is a significant outcome of the recent roundtable discussions between Indian and UK stakeholders on the telecom ecosystem. The discussions identified several key areas of collaboration, including the establishment of joint centers of excellence focusing on telecom cybersecurity, AI in telecom, and digital twins.

The partnership will also explore collaborative initiatives with British telcos to leverage mobile phone data for infrastructure planning, building upon India's success in using such data for metro route planning. Additionally, India and the UK will make joint contributions to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for the development of 6G standards (IMT 2030). The two countries will also work towards mutual recognition of testing labs and the establishment of new testing facilities. Furthermore, they will collaborate on digital twins, including standardization frameworks.

SBI inaugurates New D D College Road Branch in Keonjhar District

Public sector bank State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the opening of its 51st branch- D D College road branch in Keonjhar district. The branch was inaugurated by Dinesh, Pruthi, Chief General Manager in the presence of Shailesh Sinha, Deputy General Manager (B&O), Balasore Zone and Kamal Lochan Sarangi, Regional Manager, Keonjhar Region, and Tapan Kumar Pal, President, SBISA,among others. The new branch is opened to cater to the banking of the people of Keonjhar. This initiative aligns with the bank's mission to bring comprehensive financial services closer to communities and empower them the modern banking solutions.

Business & Beyond

GRSE secures Refit Contract for Mauritius Govt Ship MCGS Barracuda

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) has signed a major refit contract on 19 February 2025 for the Mauritius Government Ship MCGS Barracuda. MCGS Barracuda, an offshore patrol vessel of the Mauritius National Coast Guard, was originally built by GRSE and commissioned at Port Louis on March 12, 2015 – a landmark event celebrated on Mauritius' National Day in the august presence of Prime MinisterNarendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius Anerood Jugnauth. Notably, this vessel is the first export warship built and delivered by an Indian shipyard. In a recent success story, GRSE completed the refit of the Seychelles National Coast Guard Vessel PS Zoroaster and concluded the work on May 25, 2024—one month ahead of schedule —earning accolades from both the MEA and the National Coast Guard, Seychelles.

IMO Secretary-General visits Maritime Training Institute, Powai

The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI) and SCI Land and Assets Ltd (SCILAL) hosted Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization (IMO) at the Maritime Training Institute (MTI), Powai. The event was attended by Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping, Dr. Malini V Shankar, VC of Indian Maritime University (IMU), senior officials from DGS, SCI, and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, along with key maritime stakeholders from the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, shipping companies, associations and young cadets from various training institutes.

Indian Railways takes strict action against miscreants

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has arrested a juvenile. It has invoked various sections including 153 of Railways act against others with a provision for jail up to 5 years for endangering the safety of railway passengers in the case involving damage to AC coach of Swatantra Senani Express on Madhubani railway station. Railway appeals all passengers and public to refrain from acts of vandalism against railway property. It asserts Railways is a national asset and damaging it is illegal.

PCB writes to ICC after national anthem fiasco

Left red-faced after India's national anthem played for a fraction of a second at the start of the Australia-England Champions Trophy match in Lahore on Saturday, the Pakistan Cricket Board has blamed the ICC for the fiasco and demanded an explanation from the world body.The PCB had earlier also written to the ICC about its name logo not being displayed on television screens when India played Bangladesh in Dubai on Friday.

Army Paralympic Node is unique. It is the only centre that helps soldiers to rehabilitate themselves after disasters leave them shattered. **Indraneel Das** tries to find out how...

LIVING & BELIEVING

Sunday Special

A group of para-athletes were gathered in a circle close to the entry gate of the JN Stadium in Chennai. Paris Paralympic Games medallist Hokato Sema was one of them. There were about seven-eight of them chatting about life and sport while waiting for their turn to compete. 'Services' was written on their back. Not too long ago, there used to be just one or two in nationals.

Army Paralympic Node (APN) officer in charge Nitten Mehta was with the team. On the sidelines of the nationals, Mehta spoke about the journey of this unique place – the APN. He still remembers incidents that are enough to bring tears to the eyes. He animatedly narrates it with a lot of passion. Mehta lost three fingers and hurt his right hand from splinters in a blast.

One such story goes like this. One soldier had come to his centre some time ago. Nitten did not want to name any para-athlete because for him, all athletes are the same. He was a double amputee and was walking with two sticks. He looked crestfallen and shattered, as if the world came crashing down. Mehta saw the transformation in three months. "He walked without sticks," he recollects. "Progress in sport is one thing. But being able to help somebody to do away with walking sticks and helping him be independent is also a big satisfaction."

Mehta shares some light on the centre. "The aim behind the APN was to give physically-impaired soldiers a second innings or a second chance to serve the nation or the organization. This time to excel in para-sports." The centre started with 10 athletes and the 2018 Asian Games was a big landmark as para-athletes from the centre won five medals. "Tokyo Olympics was the first time an athlete from APN qualified for the Paralympics," says Mehta, adding 2023 and 2024 have been watershed years for APN. "In 2023, we won seven medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games with one world record and one Asian record," he says. "In 2024, four athletes from the APN qualified for the Paralympics, and it was after 52 years when Muralikant Petkar medalled at the Paralympics that another Indian Army person won a medal." said Sema.

The APN doesn't have to go far to scout. The Artificial Limb Centre at Pune serves as a scouting place. "Our coaches and our talent scouting team go there regularly, interact with the athletes who are undergoing treatment after losing a limb, and motivate them to join para-sports," explains Mehta. "Since sport is not only a rehab, it is a chance to do something with life, give them an aim, give them a course of life that is healthy, which is to shine for the nation."

However, the officials have their challenges as well. "The biggest step for an athlete is his willingness to participate in para sports and train for it. Because all these athletes were all normal people leading a normal life before a tragedy. They are at the rock bottom. From there, they rise again."

Mehta explains how they go about inducting athletes. "Once a person comes to us, we see his form, his physical ability and his capability. Then we choose the appropriate sport and event for him. Then we train him for that particular sport. We have got adequate coaches and support staff."

Mehta says with the support of the Ministry of Social Justice and the Mission Olympic Wing of the Army, the APN has started to develop further. "We don't have a track, but now with the support of the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, we are creating some synthetic track, sports facility and a strength and conditioning hall in phase one," he says. He believes that the para-athletes from the centre should winn some eight medals at the LA Paralympics. "Before that there's the Commonwealth an Asian Games. where we should be in double digit podium finish."

"We train in seven different sports: para-athletics, para swimming, para-archery, para-canoe kayaking, para rowing, para-shooting. We have just ventured into paratriathlon a couple of years ago and we are still debating about wheelchair fencing." Initially, APN had four athletes in nationals and now they have come with 17 athletes.

A challenge Mehta and his men face is motivating the para athletes and getting them back to shape. "One has to realise that a person may be willing but due to the sedimentary life that he's been living post-injury, his body doesn't allow him to work out or train as a competitive athlete," he says. "You have to undo everything and then start from the beginning." Not all injured soldiers don't end up in APN, either. "We take feedback from the coaches and evaluate everything and if we feel that despite all efforts a person will not be able to be part of the competitive sports then we have to send him back."

He says that the Paralympic Committee of India too has been giving them immense support. There are probably 48 different stories of 48 para-athletes training in different sports at the APN. All of them may not medal. But one thing is sure, sports have given them direction, and wings to fly.

Nitten Mehta

EXPRESS READ

Ramkumar to face 7th seed

BENGALURU: Indian wildcard Ramkumar Ramanathan is set to face seventh seed Shintaro Mochizuki as the Bengaluru Open 2025 draw was announced on Saturday. This ATP Challenger 125 event, set to be held from February 24 to March 2, promises electrifying action. Victor Kopriva is the top seed.

Jeevan-Prashant champions

PUNE: Top seeds Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth of India beat second seeded Australian pair of Blake Bayldon and Matthew Christopher Romios 3-6, 6-3, 10-0 to win the doubles title at the Maha Open ATP Challenger 100 tennis tournament. It was the first title together for the duo.

ISL: East Bengal beat Punjab FC

NEW DELHI: East Bengal posted a 3-1 win over Punjab FC in their Indian Super League match here. Dimitrios Diamantakos (15'), Naorem Mahesh Singh (47') and Lalchungnunga (54') scored for the winners. In the second match, FC Goa defeated Kerala Blasters FC by 2-0 at the JN Stadium in Goa.

BIG MEETING

All eyes on India versus Pak on-field contest in Dubai

GOMESH S @ Chennai

India's Ravindra Jadeja (L) and head coach Gautam Gambhir | PTI

IT is that time of the ICC tournament when the cricketing world comes together to watch the subcontinental rivals face each other. In terms of cricketing rivalry, it can't get bigger than this. India versus Pakistan.

The shared history, off-field political tensions only adds to the excitement. The two teams have been slotted in the same group in every ICC tournament since 2013 across formats. It is a crowd-puller. Even on TV it hits record viewership churning millions through TV commercials.

However, very rarely in the last few years has the quality of the contest lived up to the billing. In fact, barring the 2017 Champions Trophy final and the 2021 group stage T20 World Cup tie, India have been overwhelming favourites. The players are friendlier than ever, which is inherently a good step forward, but the inconsistency and lack of dominance from Pakistan at the highest level also has contributed to one-sided matches.

Whether the 2023 ODI World Cup or the 2022 and 2024 T20 World Cups, Pakistan consistently let go of momentum at crucial moments, hitting the self-destruct button to lose the contest. Meanwhile, India have done the complete opposite, seizing every opportunity that came their way. Which is why, when the Mohammad Rizwan-led side takes on Rohit Sharma's men at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday, the latter walk in as favourites. The broadcasters or the global cricketing body ICC would be hoping for a bit more. Another one-sided contest where India win without a fuss would not only dilute the rivalry but will kill Pakistan's chances of making the knockouts. Which would mean the already discussed lack of crowd at the venues in Pakistan could get worse with the home team not in contention. What it will also do is paint a clear picture of the four teams who are running towards the semifinal spots. All the extra pressure might make it all the more challenging for Pakistan, but India too would be well aware of the reaction that awaits should they lose. The last time these two teams played at this venue in an ICC event, Pakistan came out on top and it led to massive social media abuse towards players, in particular Mohammed Shami. That is why, no matter how much they play down the hype the contest does has its significance. "It's not for me to say whether the India-Pakistan contest is underhyped or over-hyped. There is a long history of India-Pakistan cricket. It is a very exciting contest but it doesn't change anything for us. It is important but the most important match will be the final," India vice-captain Shubman Gill said on Saturday.

In the larger scheme of things, more than the two teams the tournament that is already complex — the hybrid model and the other factors included — needs India versus Pakistan to live up to the hype in terms of the cricketing contest. Will it? We will have the answers on Sunday night.

SUPER SUNDAY

THE MUCH-AWAITED INDIA VS PAKISTAN MATCH IS SET TO TAKE PLACE IN DUBAI. TALKING POINTS...

Kohli's woes vs spin

It is no secret that Virat Kohli, at present, is not at his best while dealing with spinners. And that was evident on a slow turning Dubai surface against Bangladesh. Pakistan would have taken note of that and they'll be hoping to choke the India No 3 with spinners.

Eyes on Babar

Once regarded as the beacon of hope to take Pakistan forward, Babar Azam's stocks has fallen massively in the last few years. Across formats and tournaments, he has struggled to deliver for the team and he will be under pressure to perform after a sedate knock against NZ.

India vs Pakistan, Dubai ● Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar, 2.30 PM

Records tumble as Australia beat England

LAHORE: Australia rode on Josh Inglis' unbeaten century to beat England by five wickets to record the highest successful chase ever in any ICC 50-overs event here on Saturday. Inglis remained not out on 120 off just 86 balls as Australia chased down the target of 352 with 15 balls to spare. Earlier, a magnificent 165 from opening batter Ben Duckett powered England to 351/8.

Dravid dons cricketer hat again in III Division

GOMESH S @ Chennai

Rahul Dravid with match officials RV Pradhankumar Urs (R) and M Sathish | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

WHEN RV Pradhan Kumar Urs saw former India coach Rahul Dravid turn up at the SLS Kreedangana (T) Ground on Saturday morning around 8.45 AM, he was not really surprised. His son Anvay's team, Vijaya Cricket Club (Malur), was playing against Young Lions Cricket Club in a KSCA third-division match for the Sri Nassur Memorial Shield and Pradhan Kumar thought the 52-year-old was there to watch the match. But when he saw that Dravid was nominated in the team sheet as a player, he had been doing some knocking by that time in whites, the veteran umpire was pleasantly surprised. "I thought he must be in the camp, normally he comes and be with his players. Only when I saw the nomination list, we came to know. I never expected to put on whites and play," Pradhan Kumar told this daily.

Vijaya CC and Young Lions CC were playing their last league and the winner would go top of Group B. Dravid, who returned to the city two days ago from a Rajasthan Royals camp in Guwahati, turned up for the team as they went on to score 345/7 before restricting Young Lions CC for 321. On the field, Dravid came in at No 6, batted with his son Anvay, who scored 58 off 60, before getting out for 10 runs from eight balls. Swapnil Yelave was the top-scorer smashing 107 from 50 balls. With the top two teams set to qualify for knockouts, Vijaya CC were looking for a crucial win and Dravid was very much aware of it. "He was serious today. He did not laugh, play cool, nothing. It didn't matter if it was No 4 or 5 or 10 or 11, he wanted their wicket. And the best part was, he made the other players feel so comfortable. He never speaks unless needed. Only when it seemed like the game was slipping away, he talked to the captain and said, 'please change the bowling side. Let the spinner come, please keep a midwicket fielder'. Then they got the prize wicket of the captain Gopinath Saandra N (36-ball 49). That is the thing that makes him a gentleman of cricket, even today," explained Pradhan Kumar, who is the president of the Association of Cricket Umpires Karnataka (ACUK). He shared a brief moment with the former India head coach while he was batting in the middle as well. "We chatted for a couple of minutes. He played a cover drive and when he came to the non-striker's end, I jokingly said 'same old story continues'. He laughed saying, 'almost for 12 years he hasn't played active cricket'. It was a very great opportunity. And thanks to KSCA, thanks to Dravid for coming and playing in the third division which made everyone, all of us here in the ground, including the players, staff, coaches and a few spectators, who came from far, everybody enjoyed," said Pradhan Kumar who has been an umpire for more than three decades.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Hammer blow for Arsenal in EPL

AGENCIES @ London

West Ham's Jarrod Bowen (R) celebrates after scoring against Arsenal | AP

ARSENAL'S Premier League title bid suffered a huge blow as West Ham, nicknamed The Hammers, earned a shock 1-0 win over the 10-man Gunners, while Manchester United rallied from two goals down in a 2-2 draw at Everton on Saturday.

With leaders Liverpool not in action until Sunday's trip to Manchester City, Arsenal had a chance to close the gap in the title race with victory. But Mikel Arteta's side stumbled to a first loss in 16 league games as Jarrod Bowen netted West Ham's first half winner before the Gunners had Myles Lewis-Skelly sent off after the interval. Second-placed Arsenal are eight points behind Liverpool, who would move a massive 11 points clear if they beat spluttering City. After coming off the bench to score twice in the closing stages of last weekend's win at Leicester, Spain midfielder Mikel Merino started for injury-hit Arsenal as a makeshift striker.

But Arsenal's lack of cutting edge in the absence of Kai Havertz, Gabriel Jesus and Bukayo Saka was exposed when Aaron Wan-Bissaka's pin-point cross was headed in by Jarrod Bowen in the 44th minute.

Results: Arsenal **0-1** West Ham; Bournemouth **0-1** Wolves; Everton **2-2** Man United; Fulham **0-2** Crystal Palace; Ipswich **1-4** Tottenham; Southampton **0-4** Brighton.

Henry, Harris show helps Warriorz beat Capitals

ENS @ Chennai

Chinelle Henry | VINOD KUMAR T

CHINELLE Henry's late firecracker and collective bowling efforts led UP Warriorz to become the first side to defend the total in the Women's Premier League at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday against Delhi Capitals.

Opting to bowl first, the Capitals started well with the wicket of Vrinda Dinesh in the third over. Warriorz's middle-order struggled to keep the scoreboard ticking, but Henry, who hit eight sixes, made most of her opportunities. Delhi had no answers to Henry who went on to score 62 off just 23 balls and en route equalled the record of fastest WPL half-century.

In reply, despite Jemimah Rodrigues' half-century, Capitals could not get over the line. Kranti Goud and Harris took four wickets (including hat-trick) each to earn Warriorz their first win. **Brief score:** UPW 177/9 in 20 ovs (Henry 62.) **bt** DC 144/10 in 19.3 ovs (Harris 4/15, Goud 4/25)

Physically in Bhubaneswar with focus on WCs & LA

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Bhubaneswar

THE beginning of a new Olympic cycle is sport's own way of resetting of the seasons. The winter is over, the winners have all gone home and spring is here. New narratives, fresh players and different systems. Longtermism is actively promoted by the people who run teams.

Over the last week or so, this has been one of the most visible themes at the Pro League in Bhubaneswar. Germany, at least on paper, are the world champions and the Olympic silver-medallists, but coach Andre Henning doesn't want to hear any of it. "That team is history," he says. "Most of our players cannot identify with (that feeling)." India's Craig Fulton, who oversaw the bronze in Paris, has come here with an additional responsibility. Giving game-time to young players — he namechecked Arshdeep Singh — to give them an advantage when the junior World Cup rolls around later this year in Tamil Nadu.

Netherlands' Raoul Ehren, at some level, has the easiest as well as the hardest job in world hockey. Coaching the Dutch women's team. They are the the winningest women's team in the sport's history. They have won four of the last five Olympics, have an identical World Cup record and own each of the last four Euros. Put it this way — it's harder to get into their side than winning global gold. "Building a new team," he says. "We always want to improve." When you own everything the sport has to offer, the word 'improve' carries different connotations. Next to him in the mixed zone, a Dutch player rues they didn't keep a clean sheet in a 5-1 win. "It matters as we head into the future."

Indian players celebrate a goal against Ireland on Saturday | SHAMIM QURESHY

Welcome to the world of hockey in 2025 where Paris is now in the rearview mirror. The men's and women's team may physically be in Bhubaneswar but the focus is elsewhere. Henning, Fulton and a few of the others have their eyes on the Euros, the junior World Cup and a two-lettered city in the west coast of the US.

LA.

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In most other team sports, competitions conducted by the governing body has a life of its own, a context attached to it. That's kind of missing at the Pro League, even if there's a World Cup spot for the winners. There's multiple reasons for it.

Here's Henning's take. "I really like this phase of the year," he says. "Giving young guys a chance, seeing how they influence the pitch, it's very exciting. Guys who were not leaders in the past but who are beginning to lead now. We wanted to take some guys off the treadmill because they played throughout the year. They have to play 40 games for their clubs, some of them have to play indoors. You just want to allow some of your players to breathe.."

While the Pro League isn't important, there are other avenues to qualify for the senior World Cup. Germany, for example, can get through the Euros route. India know they will be there if they can win the upcoming Asia Cup. Both Fulton and Henning have, hence, decided to use high-quality opposition as a means to blood promising youngsters ahead of age-group World Cup. "We allow these guys to improve, allow these guys to make mistakes... it's all part of the growing up process," Henning says.

"That (considering the proximity of the junior World Cup) is why we brought Arshdeep," the South African coach says. "That's why the other two goalkeepers were with us and we played Gurjot (Singh) in China (in the Asian Champions Trophy). And that's why we have (Araijeet) Hundal. Do you see the bigger picture?"

Saturdays results: Men India **4-0** Ireland. Women Netherlands **6-0** England, India **1-0** Germany.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

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Hon'ble Minister, Tourism, Cultural Activities,
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Date: 24th February 2025 | Time: From 6:00 PM
Venue: At the ground near Samudra Darshan Path,
Near Somnath Temple, Gir Somnath

The 3-Day Festival Schedule

Day 01 | 24th February

- "Natya Katha: Har Har Mahadev" by Dr. Sonal Mansingh (Padma Vibhushan)
- Shiv Bhajan by Sooryagayathri
- "Nimagna" by Vidushi Rama Vaidyanathan
- Drums Shivamani with Pandit Ronu Majumdar (Padma Shri) and Shri Atul Raninga

Day 02 | 25th February

- Shadow Puppetry by Ramachandra Pulavar (Padma Shri) & Team
- Vidushi Sudha Raghuraman & Vocal Music
- Vidushi Kumudini Lakhia (Padma Vibhushan) & Kadamb
- Shri Atul Purohit (Garba/Bhajan)

Day 03 | 26th February (Shivratri)

- Singari Melam by Baroda Kerala Samajam + Folk Dance of Gujarat by Nilesh Parmar
- Dayro by Shri Yogesh Gadhvi
- Bharatanatyam by Dr. Rajashree Warrier & Team
- Violin duet by Dr. Mysore Manjunath & Sumanth Manjunath, Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam - Mridangam
- Shiva Mahima through 8 classical dance forms by Sparsh Studio for Performing Arts (Smt. Suman Sarawgi)
- "Desert Slide Ensemble" by Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Padma Bhushan) and Pandit Salil Bhatt
- Flute recital by Pandit Shashank Subramanyam with Parupalli Phalgun Mridangam & Anubrata Chatterjee Tabla
- Rhythmscape by Maestro Bickram Ghosh

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